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Shaky provident funds, plunging stocks alarm market

STOCKS and BONDS resumed their downward spiral yesterday, indicating that Tuesday's 0.7 percent interest rate cut was too little to bring investors back to the market or to boost company profits.

Fears over wholesale withdrawals from provident funds heightened the sense of panic, with estimates abounding that more than a billion shekels have been withdrawn so far this month.

Meanwhile, the Knesset Finance Committee was told yesterday that the Treasury and the Bank of Israel had reached an

agreement in principle to intervene in the market to help the collapsing provident funds.

The broad Two-Sided Index of leading stocks fell 3.5%, to 151.7 points, while the Maof Index of the 25 largest stocks fell 3.4%, to 150.7 points.

Trading opened with excess supply of NIS 100 million and the market fell steadily as the day progressed. Turnover remained thin at NIS 82 million in stocks, and observers noted that there was an almost complete absence of buyers. Selling was indiscriminate and the falls were across the board.

After staging something of a recovery on Tuesday, bonds slid again yesterday, opening on excess supply of NIS 170 million; turnover was NIS 90 million. However, falls in the bond market were more moderate than those in stocks, and there were rumors the Bank of Israel had intervened to prop up prices, as it said it might. However, the bank declined to comment on the rumors.

The Finance Committee welcomed the news about the provident fund intervention, but demanded that the central bank and the Treasury work out the details

EVELYN GORDON and NEIL COHEN

of their plan and begin implementing it as soon as possible. Chairman Gedalya Gal (Labor) said the committee would keep a close eye on their progress, and if necessary, would hold another meeting on the subject in a few days.

Treasury director-general David Brodet and Dr. David Klein of the Bank of Israel were due to meet last night to work on the idea.

The committee was discussing the problems encountered by

provident funds - which serve as savings plans, and sometimes even pensions, for many people - due to the ongoing stock market slump. The provident funds have been forced to invest in the market since 1986, when the Treasury stopped selling them special high-interest bonds, so the decline of the bourse has resulted in heavy losses, a flight of capital and, in some cases, an inability to make payments.

According to Brodet, the funds lost an average of 8% in 1994, after achieving average real gains of 5% a year during the previous five years, when the market rose.

Brodet said the situation has been particularly bad in the past two weeks, because high short-term interest rates have attracted money away from long-term investments such as provident funds.

If the trend continues, he warned, some of the money which formerly went into provident funds is likely to be diverted into consumption and the housing market - thereby fueling inflation.

It is therefore imperative, he said, that interest rates be lowered immediately.

Both Klein and Brodet rejected another idea proposed by the provident fund managers: that the Treasury once again sell them subsidized bonds. This, the two said, meant an additional budgetary outlay, and would also constitute blatant government interference in the market.

However, the two said they had reached a tentative agreement to intervene "on the edges of the market" by purchasing bonds - not enough to reverse the current trend, but enough to moderate it. Brodet said this would be done only in cases of real damage to the markets.

Peres to offer Egypt concrete proposals

Jerusalem Post Staff

FOREIGN Minister Shimon Peres plans to present Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak today with concrete proposals aimed at easing tensions over Israel's refusal to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Channel One reported last night.

According to the report, Peres will tell Mubarak Israel will consider international inspections of previously closed nuclear sites and signing the NPT within two years of the achievement of full regional peace - including Iran, Iraq and Libya.

Peres said yesterday after meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin that Israel would not sign the NPT. "Israel is the only state in the world that is threatened by other states regarding the fact of its existence. Iran says Israel should be destroyed," Peres told Channel 1.

But at the same time, Peres said Israel is not interested in eroding relations with Egypt. "We recognize the centrality of Egypt, the centrality of the Egyptian president, both in the Middle East and the peace process," he said.

Rabin's spokesman, Oded Ben-Ami, would not confirm the report. Foreign Ministry spokesman Danny Shek has said only that Peres' trip is aimed at reducing tensions with Egypt.

The NPT, which came into force in 1970, is up for renewal at a UN conference in New York.

The United States has asked Israel to sign the pact, but officials in Jerusalem do not expect serious US pressure.

Both US Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Vice President Al Gore plan to raise the issue during visits to Israel next month, Israel Radio said.

GSS officials resign over appointment of new head

ALON PINKAS

TWO senior department heads in the General Security Service submitted their resignations yesterday, saying they prefer not to work with the newly appointed GSS head, known as K.

The two, U. and C., both veteran department heads, apparently considered themselves as candidates to head the service. They are known to have had strained relations with both the outgoing head, Y., and his hand-picked successor, K., who was earlier this week confirmed as the next head of the GSS.

A security official said yesterday that the two were never considered candidates for the top job, and that their resignations were simply a show of discontent with the appointment of K. He added that the resignations are not considered extraordinary.

In January, the deputy head of the GSS, G., resigned, after realizing he would not be appointed head of the service.



Avraham Burg is congratulated yesterday by Jewish Agency Board of Governors chairman Mendel Kaplan, after being elected acting chairman of the agency. (Story, Page 12) (Joe Malcom)

'GSS tipped off Deri that police were tapping phones'

EVELYN GORDON

FORMER interior minister Aryeh Deri and his co-defendants knew the police were bugging their phones, because General Security Service agents had tipped them off, according to two more tapes submitted by the prosecution in Deri's trial yesterday.

Deri is on trial in Jerusalem District Court for fraud, bribe-taking, breach of trust, and falsifying corporate documents, along with Yom Tov Rubin and Moshe and Aryeh Weinberg. The tapes were made by chief prosecution witness Ya'acov Shmuelovitz, who held key posts in two organizations controlled by the defendants during the period covered by indictment.

Shmuelovitz, who has turned state's evidence, used his knowledge as a former private investigator to tape three conversations with Moshe Weinberg. One, submitted Monday, was made in September 1987 at Shmuelovitz's initiative; of the two submitted yesterday, one

was made that year, also at Shmuelovitz's initiative, and the second in 1991, at the request of the police. In the 1991 tape, Weinberg told Shmuelovitz he knew police were tapping his phone.

"Not just me. We all know," he continued, according to a transcript submitted by the prosecution. The defense disputes the accuracy of the transcripts.

Shmuelovitz: "How do you [know]?" Weinberg: "Very simple. Because [the requests] go through the GSS, and our connections with all kinds of people in the GSS."

Weinberg also talks about the job Deri found for him as head of the Lehavim Local Council - one of the items in the indictment.

"In principle, I go [to Lehavim] when I feel like it," he said. "I don't work."

He also related how, with Deri's

assistance, he had gotten Mifal Hapayis to build a NIS 1.4 million center in Lehavim.

Weinberg also discussed some of the allegations included in the second indictment against Deri, which has not yet been served and relates to his alleged abuse of his position as interior minister.

"[A local council head] would come to Aryeh Deri and tell him, I need a soccer field, and [Deri] would tell him, wait a minute, you didn't give money... I asked you to give money to the Imo yeshiva, and you didn't, so don't come to me about soccer," Weinberg said.

Shmuelovitz: "He admits this?" Weinberg: "Yes, on TV he admitted this... in an interview on A Net Evening... [Deri said] on this basis, I ran in the election, and on this basis I signed a coalition agreement, and in my coalition agreement I promised all these things. These aren't things that are being done (Continued on Page 2)

PA launches PR bid to pressure Israel

JON IMMANUEL
CAIRO

THE Palestinians yesterday launched a campaign to convince the world that Israel is obstructing the peace process, and that the price for not intervening could be its total collapse.

A statement, read by Palestinian Authority Information Minister Yasser Abed-Rabbo after a meeting of nine members of the PLO executive committee, said that it "decided to launch a political and diplomatic campaign," worldwide, and especially in the Middle East.

The campaign began with a meeting between PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, followed by another with Foreign Minister Amr Moussa. Arafat then flew to Saudi Arabia to meet with King Fahd.

Abed-Rabbo said the campaign will include the US, Russia, the European Union, and other states.

"The peace process has begun to lose credibility, and continuation is not possible now as long as the Israeli government is engaged in a policy of postponing the application of agreements. Any cessation of the peace process will lead to its collapse as a whole," Abed-Rabbo said.

He cited Israeli settlement activity and the closures of the territories as contributing factors to "the destruction of this historical opportunity."

Only nine members of the 18-member executive committee showed up for the meeting at Arafat's villa on the outskirts of Cairo.

A second meeting will be held in early March in Tunis, "to re-evaluate the situation again," Abed-Rabbo said.

Saeb Erekat, heading a delegation to election talks, said that the Tunis meeting would include PLO Political Department Chief Farouk Kaddoumi, Oslo accord negotiator Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), and others who boycotted the two-day Cairo meeting.

Erekat said no progress was made in the election talks. "There is no agreement whatsoever," except for an agreement on separate elections for the council and its chief executive, he said.

Yoel Singer, the head of the Israeli team, departed from his usual optimism. "We still have a long way before us," he told AP.

Singer said the negotiations would resume in Cairo in two weeks, and that he hoped to meet Erekat next week without the other negotiators.

Mohammed Shatah, a member of the Palestinian team, said the good spirits of the previous day before had changed for the worse.

"Israel's main problem is that they think of themselves as part-

ners, and we consider them facilitators," he said.

He added that it should be no concern of Israel's what arrangements Palestinians choose to make concerning international observers, election supervision, or voting age. "Whether voters are 17 or one has no bearing on their security interests," he said.

Jaweed Ghusein, chairman of the Palestine National Fund and an executive committee member, indicated that talks might be better suspended, at least until the executive committee meets in Tunis.

"We feel that negotiating now is not going to be fruitful," he said. But no decision was taken to suspend talks.

It was decided, however, that Arafat would head a higher committee appointed by the executive committee, which would include executive committee members and PA ministers, "to start a Palestinian national dialogue." This would be aimed at bridging the widening gaps between those who want to continue talks and those who want to end them.

A meeting of the broader 80-member PLO Central Council is to be held "in the near future, to strengthen Palestinian unity," Abed-Rabbo said.

The PLO plan is to restore the Palestinian track to the center of the whole peace process, by winning Arab support for the view that Israeli-Arab relations should be frozen until the disputes with the Palestinians are resolved.

Gafni: Reform rabbis are like terrorists

LIAT COLLINS

UNITED Torah Judaism MK Moshe Gafni compared Reform rabbis to terrorists in the Knesset plenum yesterday.

During a plenum discussion on the Masorti (Conservative) movement's conversion of adopted children, Gafni blasted both movements.

"Letting a Reform rabbi sit on the Tel Aviv religious council is the equivalent of letting a terrorist into the General Staff headquarters. The Reform are terrorists, not rabbis," he said.

Economics Minister Shimon She-

reet, who on Tuesday was awarded the Religious Affairs portfolio, told the MKs the subject is being reviewed by the attorney-general and suggested waiting for his opinion.

He added, however, that the Chief Rabbinate should try to find a means of easing and expediting the conversion process within a halachic framework, to prevent suffering to the children and families.

Shetreet confirmed that the conversion carried out earlier this week in Kibbutz Hanaton is not recognized by Israeli law as it was not approved by the chief rabbis.

Shomron blames Rabin for dismissal

FORMER chief of general staff Dan Shomron, fired as chairman of the board of TAAS Israel Industries about three weeks ago, blames Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin for his dismissal.

Rabin, he told Israel Television's Nissim Mishaal last night, sacked him after receiving negative reports about him from Treasury Director-General David Brodet and Defense Minister Director-General David Ivry.

"I was given a field court-martial," without an examination of the facts, he said. He called for a commission of inquiry into how TAAS could lose millions over the years without the government being aware of it. (Itim)

Rabin, Harish suggest plans to 'save' Labor

SARAH HONIG

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres have formulated a far-reaching plan to "save Labor," including the appointment of former chief of general staff Ehud Barak, Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin, and possibly Hista-drut Chairman Haim Ramon to cabinet posts.

The membership of hundreds of party members who competed against Labor candidates in local or Hista-drut elections will also be reinstated.

Party secretary-general Nissim Zivli disclosed the plan yesterday, after Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish announced that he is setting up a movement - Telem - "to rescue the Labor Party."

Zivli, the man Harish blames for the party failures, said he

"would waste no time bothering with petty, pestering functionalities. The prime minister and I have already formulated plans to save Labor."

Under the plan, Uzi Baram would have to give up, as early as mid-June, his newly won Interior portfolio. It would then go to Barak, who cannot enter the government until June, when his six-month cooling off period for retired military officers ends.

Shimon Shetreet, who was awarded the Religious Affairs portfolio, will also be required to hand over one of his ministerial holdings. According to sources, Rabin expects him to cede the Economics portfolio, as this is the only portfolio that could be offered to Beilin, who is definitely


not a candidate for Religious Affairs.

When they received their second portfolios, Rabin made it clear to Baram and Shetreet that it was only for a limited period and made them promise to be ready to return to a single-portfolio status. Both are reported to have made the commitment, but around Rabin there is a persistent fear that when the crunch comes, Shetreet, at least, might rebel.

Peres stressed to Rabin that the only way Barak can come into the government is if Beilin is finally given a cabinet post, as Rabin has promised. Beilin, a former deputy finance minister, will be given a choice between minister-without-portfolio or Economics.

No one yet knows how Barak, who is studying in the US, will react to be given the Interior portfolio, having originally hoped to be made Defense minister. However, Interior is the only important portfolio Rabin has to offer, and he would like Barak to take it and not force him to engage in a broader reshuffle, which could destabilize the government.

Recriminations, meanwhile, were traded in Meretz over Environment Minister Yossi Sarid's halt of his mini-rebellion over not being given the Interior portfolio. Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein disagreed with Sarid's decision to drop his demands "because this was no personal matter, and he had no right to pull back the party's claims on the Interior portfolio."



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF ISRAEL

THE PRESIDENT'S CITATIONS FOR VOLUNTEERING 1995-5755

Citations will be presented by President Ezer Weizmann to individual volunteers, as well as to groups, that have distinguished themselves in their fields of activity and/or made a significant contribution to the welfare of society and the state. Citations will also be awarded to young volunteers.

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- * Recommendations will not be acknowledged in writing and accompanying documentation will not be returned to the donors.
- * Information on the selection of awardees will be sent only to the candidates who are selected.
- * The last date for submission of names of proposed awardees is March 31, 1995.



Weiss refuses request to debate Golan bills within two weeks

KNESSET Speaker Shevah Weiss yesterday refused a request by Labor MKs Avigdor Kahalani, Emanuel Zissman, and Ya'acov Sheffi, to have their bills on territorial withdrawal debated within two weeks, over the Labor faction's objection.

In a letter to Weiss, the three MKs said the House Rules categorically state that every MK is entitled to propose a private member's bill.

"It's a basic right of every MK," they wrote. "The definition is not that every MK is entitled to submit a bill, but to propose a bill. To propose a bill means being able to further it via accepted legislative procedures."

The three MKs are among five signed on two bills that call for a 50

LIAT COLLINS

percent majority in a national referendum and a majority of 70 MKs to approve territorial withdrawal.

The three wrote that since 45 days had passed since their bills were submitted, the speaker should set a date for their debate in accordance with objective considerations.

"The obvious conclusion is that an MK's right to propose a bill in the plenum is not conditional on faction approval," they wrote, apparently basing this claim on research by Uriel Lynn, a former chairman of the Knesset Law Committee.

In his response, Weiss wrote that under their claim that every bill

must be discussed after 45 days had lapsed, hundreds of bills a week would have to be considered. He said the MKs had not mentioned the clause in the House Rules that states that the House Committee determines at the beginning of each Knesset session every faction's quota of bills and motions.

"The Knesset is based on faction regimes," he replied.

This week the Labor faction voted against allowing the bills to be debated.

Zissman said the group was discussing different possibilities, such as asking for a discussion of the

issue by the House Committee. He did not rule out the possibility of petitioning the High Court.

Batsheva Tsor adds:

Ten leading members of the Third Way movement, which is calling on the government to take a firmer stand on security issues, met yesterday with President Ezer Weizman.

The group members, most of whom have held senior positions in the various security branches, told Weizman of the growing concern among members of the public about the future of the Golan Heights, Kahalani said after the meeting.

He said Weizman had listened but had refused to take a stand because of his position.

Eastern Jerusalem beltway likely to be approved

BILL HUTMAN

THE Transport Ministry will give the go-ahead for construction of a controversial highway around eastern Jerusalem, ministry director-general Doron Shorer said yesterday.

"All of our projections show that the highway is necessary," Shorer told the *Jerusalem Post*. He said final approval would probably be given in the coming months, and then it would be up to the Treasury to find funding.

That part of the proposed highway runs through the administered

territories, "is not even a factor in our decision," Shorer said. "If anything, the importance of the project to keeping Jerusalem united only gives us incentive to move forward with it."

The highway, which has been dubbed the Eastern Beltway, is slated to begin in southeast Jerusalem near Sur Bahir, run northeast past Azzariya and A-Tur, and link up with the Jerusalem-Ma'aleh Adumim highway. It includes a tunnel

through a section of the Mount of Olives.

The highway is meant to ease traffic congestion in the capital's downtown area.

For the past several months, the ministry has been conducting a nationwide survey aimed at deciding which road construction projects should be built first.

But planning for the Eastern Beltway, which is being pushed forward by Jerusalem District Planning

Committee Chairman Eli Suissa, continued without waiting for a ministry decision.

Suissa said that within two months the planning process would be completed.

The project requires the expropriation of some land privately owned by Palestinians. Jerusalem Deputy Mayor Shmuel Shkedi said the expropriation process is liable to slow the implementation of the project.

Neither Shkedi nor Shorer were able to provide estimates for the cost of the highway.

Peres defends 'Jenin First' transfer of local control

LIAT COLLINS

JUST as education in Jenin has been handed over to the Jenin local council, there is no reason that other municipal responsibilities should not be transferred, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said yesterday.

Peres was answering nine motions to the agenda on the "Jenin First" plan under which the Palestinian Authority would take control of Jenin's affairs.

"The same way that education is, for the first time ever, in the hands of the city's residents, so it should be with municipal affairs. But the handling of security should rest with Israel," Peres said.

There is an obligation under the Oslo agreement to hand over the running of the Palestinians' daily lives to the residents themselves, he said.

"It's incumbent upon us in Israel to ensure the physical and economic

security [of the residents of the territories], and therefore I have proposed establishing five industrial parks along the border - the separation line - on the Palestinian side, and three on the Israeli side, with the intention of bringing work to the residents instead of bringing them to Israel to work here," Peres said.

He quoted from his conversation with the Palestinian Authority Economic Minister Ahmed Qreia last week, during which he told the Qreia that the responsibility for security would rest in Israeli hands.

Following his speech, all the MKs who had filed the motions agreed to drop them.

At the beginning of his address, Peres said he had visited Gaza this week and found residents who praised the Oslo agreement.

Public faithful to favorite newspapers, despite lure of TV

RACHEL NEIMAN

YESTERDAY was judgment day for the local communications industry, with the release of the annual Survey of Media Exposure, sponsored by the Advertisers Association.

The 212-page study revealed that increased programming on Channel 2 has not affected the habits of Israel's reading public, which continues to be loyal to its favorite newspapers.

The surveys, conducted in January, examined the reading, listening, and film-viewing habits of the Hebrew-speaking Jewish public. Separate surveys were conducted for haredim, Arabs and new immigrants.

The study has a 2.4% margin of error.

For the study of newspaper reading habits, 1,659 adults and 629 youths were interviewed. It was found that 53.2% of adults read *Yediot Aharanot*, up from 52.2% in 1994. *Ma'ariv's* readership stands at 24.6%, as compared with 21.1% in 1994. *Ha'aretz's* readers number 6.2% of the population, similar to last year's 6.1%.

According to the survey, *The Jerusalem Post* is read by 1% of the general Israeli population. However, the survey notes that the paper's actual readership is higher.

Only 9.5% of those surveyed said they never bought a newspaper, while 54.3% said they bought only a weekend edition (which might include a local newspaper). Also, 27.5% said they buy two papers, 6.9% buy three newspapers and 1.8% of those surveyed purchased four or more newspapers.

Of the weekend readers, 67.3% buy *Yediot Aharanot*, as compared with 67.4% last year. A total of 27.2% said they buy *Ma'ariv*, down from 28.1% in 1994. *Ha'aretz's* readership stands at 6.9%, as compared with 6.7% in 1994, and 1.8% read *The Jerusalem Post*.

Most radio listeners maintained their loyalties this year, with 31.2% tuning in to Radio 2 as compared with 30.3% in 1994. Another 29.9% are Radio 3 listeners, compared to 29.8% in 1994. Army Radio ostensibly lost points, with 24.5% of listeners in 1995 instead of last year's 31.9%, but Army on Wheels claimed 8% of the audience. Arutz 7 claimed 7.2% of listeners, up from 6.7% last year.

The survey on cinema habits found that 14.9% of adults go to the movies once a month. About 11% said they go two or three times monthly, some 3% go between four and five times a month, and 69.8% said they do not see films.

Sharon: Next government should promote massive settlement

HILLEL KUTTLER WASHINGTON

IF the Rabin government falls in the 1996 elections, its successor should induce "several hundred thousand settlers" to move to the territories, MK Ariel Sharon said yesterday.

Appearing before the National Press Club, Sharon said: "One thing I can assure you: that once there will be a different government in Israel, I would call it a national Jewish government, combined [sic] of national Jewish parties, I believe that the settlement project would proceed and develop."

"I believe there will be many more [settlers] in the future, and I think that altogether one should think about several hundred

thousand that will be living in those areas."

Sharon made a quick circuit of Congress during the afternoon, telling legislators that the Oslo accord has reduced the average Israeli's security. His visit was sponsored by the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza.

Sharon told reporters he had come here not as a Likud member but as "an Israeli citizen," because he wanted to present a truer picture of the 140,000 settlers in the territories, whose "contribution to peace is very,

very important."

"I came to present facts, positions," Sharon said, before heading for Capitol Hill. "Without doubt, I'll present the facts that [Palestinian Authority chairman Yasser] Arafat hasn't once fulfilled his commitments. Arafat is a murderer, a war criminal."

Sharon stopped short, though, of saying he would advise his counterparts to cut off Congressional funding of the PA.

He said he "didn't come here to ask" for that to be done, but added that he wanted "everyone that can affect" Arafat to send

the message that the PA was failing as a peace partner.

Sharon also lashed out indirectly at Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, saying that government officials are using a "wrong approach" in appealing for worldwide funds for the PA.

"How can there be foreign investment in the Palestinian areas when it's corrupted?" he asked.

Sharon was due to meet with the House International Relations Committee, and on the Senate side with Foreign Relations Committee chairman Jesse Helms, Near East subcommittee chairman Hank Brown, as well as Senators Joseph Lieberman and Arlen Specter.

TA police chief: Our city is safe - you can go anywhere

RAINE MARCUS

TEL AVIV is still one of the safest cities in the world, Tel Aviv police chief Cmdr. Gabi Lavi said yesterday, at the city's annual police officers' conference.

"On police trips around the world my counterparts always give me a list of no-go areas," he said. "Here I cannot say there are places that tourists should not visit. Tel Aviv is a safe city."

Property crimes, which comprise 77.2% of all offenses in the city, dropped last year by 5.7%, with 37,609 burglaries committed in 1994, compared to 41,174 the previous year.

The murder rate also dropped,

with a total of 21 murders recorded in Tel Aviv compared to 26 in 1993. But police only solved 66.6% of murder cases in 1994, compared to 73.1% the previous year.

Some 348 criminal files were opened against drug dealers in 1994, compared to 434 the previous year. Narcotics squad detectives seized 18.9 kg. of heroin in 1994, the same amount of cocaine, 117.9 kg. of marijuana, 3,053.3 kg. of hashish and 3,140 LSD pills last year.

However, juvenile crime rose by 20% compared to the previous year, with 144 minors brought to trial,

compared to 120 in 1993. A total of 2,010 criminal files against juveniles were opened in 1994, compared to 1,880 the previous year.

Property crimes committed by minors constituted 56.4% of all juvenile crime. The crime rate by immigrant juveniles also increased by 76.5% in 1994, but Lavi was quick to add that it was incorrect to stigmatize immigrant youth.

"These kids are still experiencing integration difficulties and often have severe financial problems," he said. "It is up to the education and social welfare system to solve their problems."

The Abu Kabir lockup, which has been criticized for its filthy and overcrowded conditions, will undergo a NIS 500,000 renovation shortly, he said.

It was also revealed that police vehicles are involved in nine times

more accidents than civilian vehicles. Such vehicles were involved in 3,800 accidents. In response, police said that the figures were not exact and that police vehicles were subject to difficult conditions, especially during chases after criminals.

Police also run up more mileage than civilians, they said.

DERI

(Continued from Page 1)

under the table."

In several cases, the differences between the 1991 tape - made when the Deri investigation was already in full swing - and the earlier tapes are noticeable.

In the other tape submitted yesterday, for instance, Weinberg talks openly about receiving \$35,000 from Deri to repay his debts.

"I got \$35,000 in my hand," he said. "I'm in a situation where I

need the money, so Aryeh Deri arranged this for me."

When Shmuelovitz reminded him of the affair during the 1991 conversation, however, Weinberg denied it.

In the 1991 tape, Weinberg also denied that he had paid for Deri's trip to England - something he had claimed responsibility for in the tape submitted Monday.

Shmuelovitz's cross-examination will begin on Sunday.



A policeman drags away a haredi demonstrator, one of 50 arrested yesterday for disturbing the peace at archeological excavations in Jaffa. Police said 400 haredim gathered at the site and blocked the roadway, preventing trucks from leaving the dig. A large police contingent was sent to disperse the demonstrators. Those who refused to leave were arrested. (Text: ILM; Photo: AP)

Iran: We failed to find Ron Arad

BONN (AP) - Iran tried to locate missing airman Ron Arad at the request of Germany but failed to find him, the Iranian Embassy said yesterday.

The embassy denied a German newspaper report that Iran and Israel held secret negotiations about Arad, whose plane was shot down on a bombing mission over Lebanon in October 1986. Israel believes Arad is being held in Iran.

In a statement faxed to reporters, the Iranian Embassy did acknowledge that German Chancellor Helmut Kohl had asked Iran to look for Arad.

"On the basis of a request by

Chancellor Kohl, [Iranian] President Hashemi Rafsanjani gave an order that there be a search for Ron Arad. The search was unsuccessful," the embassy said.

No details were given of where, how or when the search was conducted.

The *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* newspaper reported Tuesday that Israeli and Iranian negotiators have been talking about Arad from separate rooms at the German Chancellery, with German mediators going back and forth between them.

The Iranian Embassy said that part of the story is wrong: "There were neither direct nor indirect

discussions between Iranian and Israeli diplomats."

Israel on Tuesday confirmed that Germany had been talking with Iran about Arad but said the discussions had produced no information about where he is or whether he is alive.

State-run Teheran Television, monitored in Cyprus, said in a commentary that "the Iranian nation and the Islamic world are wholly accustomed to such lies."

Teheran Television suggested that the German report aimed to paint Iran in a conciliatory light, and show that it had given up its staunch opposition to talks with Israel.

Infant in cradle run over by van in parking lot

AMIR ROZENBLIT and Ilim

THREE people died in traffic accidents yesterday.

Six-month-old Moran Hadad was run over in Jaffa, after her father had put her cradle down in a parking lot while buying vegetables being sold from a van. To his horror, he saw a driver get into her car and, not noticing the cradle, run over it. The baby died in Wolfson Hospital. The driver was questioned by police, then released on bail.

Sarah Ben-Kindel, 53, of Ashdod, was struck and killed by a cement mixer while crossing a street.

She was vision impaired and apparently could not tell that the mixer was coming at her in reverse. The driver only realized he hit her after passersby yelled at him to stop.

Omit Ahnuf, 23, of Kibbutz Nirim, was killed early yesterday morning when, due to excessive speed, his motorcycle failed to negotiate a curve on the Kfar Sava-Taiba road, and he ran off the road and hit a building.

Meanwhile, Faina Barzin, 34, of Jerusalem, thought lightly injured in an accident on February 11, died yesterday in Beersheba's Soroka Hospital.

Saudis haven't fulfilled \$30m. pledge for Jerusalem

BILL HUTMAN

SAUDI Arabia has failed to keep its promise to contribute some \$30 million to Palestinian development in Jerusalem, and some Palestinian leaders in the city are unsure whether the money will ever arrive.

Jerusalem Arabic dailies yesterday ran front-page stories saying that a Saudi prince was beginning to raise funds for Jerusalem, and that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat was in Saudi Arabia to inquire about the funding.

"I am not sure what to make of the reports," said Ghassan Khatib, a member of the Jerusalem Committee, a group representing various Palestinian factions, headed by Faisal Hussein. "It may be that all the promises we have heard about have

simply been wishful thinking."

Upon his return from Saudi Arabia in December, Hussein reported to the committee that the Saudis had promised him \$30 million, Khatib added.

Hussein could not be reached for comment.

The Jerusalem newspapers reported that Sulaiman Abdel Aziz, prince of Riyadh, donated \$135,000 for "Jerusalem projects."

"For the past seven or eight years, we have received promises [of funding from the Saudis], but have yet to see any of the money," said Mustafa Abu Za'ara, a Jerusalem Committee member. "I hope that this time things will be different."

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Innovative fertilization method succeeds

JUDY SIEGEL

FOR the first time anywhere in the world, Assaf Harofeh Hospital doctors have managed to produce a pregnancy by in-vitro fertilization (IVF) and micromanipulation with the completely immotile sperm of a man suffering from Kartagener's Syndrome.

His wife is now two months pregnant with twins.

The husband, 30, and his wife, 29, had been trying to conceive for eight years. The husband has two brothers also suffering from fertility problems.

Experts in the hospital's IVF unit, headed by Dr. Rafael Ron-El, found that the man had a "reasonable concentration" of sperm in his semen. However, they were not motile, making it extremely difficult to impregnate his wife's ova, even by micromanipulation (injecting the ova with the sperm or by drilling a hole into the egg and shooting it inside).

Examination of the sperm under an electron microscope at Bar-Ilan University's male fertility lab found he was suffering from Kartagener's Syndrome, which affects one in 5,000 men.

Sperm were twice injected into the woman's ova, but this did not result in conception. On the third try, after special preparation of the sperm before injection, six embryos were produced out of 11 eggs. Four were inserted into the woman's fallopian tubes, resulting in fraternal-twin fetuses.

Ron-El reported yesterday that the Belgian developers of the micromanipulation technique that was used were told of the success.



One of eight Carmel gazelles flown here from France is let loose in the Carmel Hal-Bar nature reserve yesterday. Five males and three females were brought over to increase the population among gazelles at the reserve and eventually increase the wild gazelle population. The gazelles were flown over in special containers by El Al after it was determined they could adapt to the Israeli climate and to the other gazelles in the reserve. They were brought over with the help of French forestry and wildlife groups. (Doron Horowitz/Nature Reserves Authority)

Knesset committee hears plight of women whose husbands remarry without divorce

LIAT COLLINS

WHAT happens to a woman who wakes up and finds her husband has taken another wife? According to several who addressed the Knesset Committee on the Status of Women, they lose everything: dignity, possessions, home and children.

The committee was continuing its discussions on the rabbinical courts' permits for men to marry second wives without divorcing their first ones.

The women said they had been termed "rebellious" or "repulsive" to their husbands. Some

said they had never received an explanation; others said their husbands were allowed to take a second wife because of long-standing arguments between the couple on dividing up property.

The committee decided that the right of women to appear before the president of the Rabbinical Court of Appeals before the final ruling on the taking of a second wife must be anchored in regulations.

Similarly, it was decided to

protect the women's rights to receive the reason for the ruling and be allowed to appeal it.

Committee chairwoman Limor Livnat (Likud) said she would ask Justice Minister David Liba'i about amending the rabbinical court regulations on the subject.

Every year between 10 and 14 permits to take second wives are granted, most of them to husbands whose wives are mentally ill or have disappeared.

One woman told how she dis-

covered that next week her husband will be granted a permit to marry a second wife, and that the rabbinical court had invalidated three rounds of discussion on the division of property, alimony and the worth of her ketuba (marriage contract). She claimed that according to the value of her ketuba the day she was married, she would receive less than NIS 1.

Another woman said her husband had been granted a permit because the rabbi claimed she had not agreed to divorce him, even though she said she would.

Aloni: Private firms won't replace pay phones

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Communications Ministry will fight to ensure that coin-operated pay phones installed in public places by private companies, that do not make change and whose rates are not controlled, do not replace Bezek's public phones.

Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni yesterday told the Knesset Economics Committee that she will see to it that public telephone service is reliable and cheap. Last week, she signed regulations setting quotas for the number of Bezek phones that must be installed in public areas.

Hospitals must have a Telecard or credit-card-operated Bezek phone in each public area, including emergency rooms and outpatient clinics. Educational institutions must have one phone for every 50 students; seaports, one for every 250 meters of running space; airports, two for every 10 meters' length of public halls; shopping centers, one for every five shops; central bus stations, one for every platform; one phone in every gas station; a phone for every 250 seats in cinemas, sports facilities, and theaters; four phones in railroad stations; hotels, one phone for each 50 rooms; and youth hostels, one for every 25 rooms.

The committee met about regulations regarding hotels, and will continue discussions on the other locations in future sessions.

Ministry spokesman Moshe Perl said the ministry had never expected that deals would be made between private phone equipment companies and hotels and other places, with the aim of keeping Bezek's public phones out.

Perl added that these phones' message units are shorter than Bezek's, making calls from them more expensive. Their minimum charge is NIS 1, compared to 50 agorot for

Weizman commutes nine life sentences

BATSHEVA TSUR

PRESIDENT Ezer Weizman yesterday commuted the sentences of nine people serving life sentences for murder.

Five of the sentences were commuted to 30 years and the remainder to 27. They will also be entitled to a third off for good behavior.

Yona Avrushmi, who murdered Emil Grunzweig during a Peace Now demonstration in 1983, was among those whose sentence was reduced to 27 years.

It was the first time Weizman commuted sentences for murderers since assuming office.

The president agreed to discuss specific commutations only after Justice Minister David Liba'i confirmed that legislation was being prepared, as Weizman had requested, both with regard to the means of granting commutation and to the length of the sentence.

Early yesterday morning,

Weizman held a prolonged meeting with Liba'i to discuss several cases that had been recommended by the Justice Ministry. The two are expected to confer again soon to discuss other cases.

Under the present law, the punishment for murder is a mandatory life sentence. The new legislation would give the courts the authority, in specific cases, to use their own judgment as to whether the murderer can serve less than life. Such legislation is expected to be introduced within the next half-year.

A second bill would set up an advisory committee on commutations, headed by a judge, which would be empowered to discuss commutation - but only after seven years. It would not be permitted to commute a sentence to less than 30 years.

The president's right, under

the Basic Law: The President to pardon offenders, would remain in effect under the new legislation.

Prisons Service Commissioner Aryeh Bibi said the service would study Weizman's decision and then decide how to treat those whose sentences have been commuted.

Bibi said that the cell conditions of the prisoners in question will not be changed; however, they may become eligible for furloughs as long as they are not a danger to the public.

Ophir Pines, head of the Prisoner Rehabilitation Authority, praised Weizman for commuting the life sentences, but expressed disappointment that only nine had benefited from the decision, after a year's delay.

He said he hoped Weizman and Liba'i would continue with the process and commute the sentences of 11 other prisoners.

More sleep for students - 'zero hour' canceled

BATSHEVA TSUR

GOOD news for parents who have to wake up their sleepy children for 7:30 a.m. classes: *She'at efes* (zero hour) is going to be canceled.

Education Ministry Director-General Shimon Shoshani announced yesterday that as of September 1, all elementary and junior high school classes will start at 8 a.m. He said that in

certain areas, such as the hot Jordan Valley, exceptions would be made if the schools requested it.

A recent study by sleep expert Prof. Peretz Lavie revealed that children who get up very early have trouble concentrating and remaining awake during classes. According to Lavie, most school-

children go to bed late and try to make up lost sleep during the afternoons, thus losing time for homework and extracurricular activities.

Asked whether the decision was influenced by the study's findings, an Education Ministry spokesman said it had been under discussion long before the research was published.

Court to Jehovah's Witness: Kids must study Judaism

EVELYN GORDON

A JEWISH woman who became a Jehovah's Witness must still give her children a Jewish education, the Supreme Court ruled yesterday.

In a unanimous decision, Justices Meir Shamgar, Theodor Orr, Eliahu Mazza, Yitzhak Zamir and Tova Strasberg-Cohen said the good of the children - who had been raised as Jews until now and are still living in a Jewish society - outweighed the mother's right to educate her children in the religion of her choice.

The case involved a couple who were both Jewish when they married, and raised their children accordingly. Some years later, however, the woman joined Jehovah's Witnesses, and wanted to begin educating her children in her new faith. Her husband objected, however, and the two eventually brought their dispute to the Tel Aviv District Court.

In 1993, the district court ruled that the children could not be educated as Jehovah's Witnesses. The woman then appealed to the Supreme Court, charging that her freedom of conscience and religion was being violated by the court's refusal to allow her to educate her children in her own faith.

Shamgar, who wrote the primary opinion (Strasberg-Cohen wrote a separate but concurring opinion), agreed that the mother's rights were

at issue here, but stressed that children also have the right to freedom of religion and conscience. For instance, he noted, the law governing conversions states that children under 12 can be converted only with the consent of both parents or the court, while for children 12 or older, conversion requires their consent as well as the consent of both parents.

In this case, Shamgar said, only two of the three children were 12 or older, but he saw no reason to differentiate between them and their younger sibling. In all three cases, he said, they were born and raised Jewish; they lived in a Jewish environment, where being educated in another faith was likely to cause problems with their peer group; and they had expressed no desire to join Jehovah's Witnesses.

Therefore, he said, the children's interest in continuing to be educated as Jews was so strong that it clearly outweighed the mother's rights in this case.

Shamgar also noted that whenever possible, the court tries not to get involved in disputes between parents over how to educate their children. In this case, however, the conflict between the parents had been sufficiently damaging to the children that the court felt obligated to intervene, he said.

Police defend conduct during attack on inmate

AMIR ROZENBLIT

THE police yesterday said they were surprised at charges by Defense for Children International (DCI) that they had failed to properly investigate the beating of a 16-year-old by his cellmates in the Negev District lockup.

DCI said it had complained about the incident on January 22, and again on January 30, requesting an immediate investigation, but has yet to receive a reply, despite a promise of action from the district officer.

In response, Southern District police spokesman Ch-Supt. Shalom Ben-Hamo said: "We are talking about a young immigrant from the CIS, who was being held on suspicion of selling drugs. He was attacked by his cellmates, who were his age. When the guards realized that he was being beaten, he was removed from the cell."

"A youth investigator was immediately summoned, and took the youth's complaint. The investigator also identified the assailants, and an indictment against them was presented to Beersheba Juvenile Court. The police acted according to the law, and don't understand the basis for the association's charges."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hayuth named president of Haifa U.

Prof. Yehuda Hayuth was named Haifa University president yesterday by the university's board of governors. He had been serving as acting president. Hayuth, 49, teaches in the university's geography department. He specializes in ports, sea transport and the planning of integrated transportation systems. He has a doctorate from the University of Washington in Seattle, and a master's degree from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Itim

Rally in capital calls for release of MIAs

Dozens of young people participated in a rally in Jerusalem yesterday on behalf of the nation's MIAs.

"If you, as young people, demand the release of the prisoners, in the future you can go to battle knowing that if something happens - you will also be brought back home," Osnat Fink, the sister of missing soldier Yosef Fink, told the rally, which marked nine years since he and Rahamim Elsheikh fell captive in southern Lebanon.

Speakers at the rally also called for the release of MIAs Ron Arad, Zacharia Baumel, Yehuda Katz and Zvi Feldman.

Itim

Body found six miles off coast

The body found Tuesday by the navy six miles off the coast of the Shavei Zion Beach is not that of Uri Keresh, 37, of Haifa, the windsurfer who disappeared in early January. The body was wearing red pants and a black-striped life jacket, and Keresh's jacket was a different color.

Information on the body was conveyed to Interpol, as police suspect it may be that of a surfer from a neighboring country.

Itim

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the king of spades, 10 of hearts, seven of diamonds, and nine of clubs.

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Anglo-Irish plan meets Protestant opposition

ANDREW HILL
BELFAST

BRITAIN and Ireland unveiled bold plans for a Northern Ireland political settlement yesterday but ran into a wall of rejection by pro-British Protestants who said the two were hatching a covert plan to reunite Ireland.

British Prime Minister John Major and his Irish counterpart, John Bruton, said their "framework document" was an attempt to build on a six-month-old guerrilla cease-fire and create a lasting settlement to 25 years of conflict.

"Read it, study it, think about it, discuss it, talk about it... let it mature. Think of the overall prize that lies at the end," Major implored Protestant Unionists, who want to stay British and fear Dublin's involvement in any initiative.

But the immediate reaction of Unionists representing the 60 percent Protestant majority was condemnation, echoing the fury that torpedoed a similar plan in 1973.

"I believe this whole thing is totally unworkable. It is not a document for discussion but a manifesto leading to the creation of a united Ireland," Ulster Unionist parliamentarian William Ross said three hours after the plan was launched.

He and other Unionists fear the plan panders to Sinn Fein, the political wing of IRA guerrillas who fought for 25 years to drive Britain from the province until a cease-fire last year.

"You have sold out the Union [with Britain]," hard-line Unionist leader Ian Paisley said in a statement to Major.

Major later returned to London, where he delivered a passionate defense of the plan to parliament and won strong backing from all parties, except the Unionists.

Accused by Unionist Ken Maginnis of promoting a "dishonorable blueprint for an all-Ireland," Major said he was determined to break Northern Ireland's "spiral of despair."

"It is right to try," he said. "I don't believe any prime minister of the United Kingdom... could or should sit in Downing Street without actively trying

to find a way out of the problems that have existed for so long."

Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams said the determination of the two governments to press ahead with a joint plan showed that Britain's 1920s partition of Ireland was "a failure."

"There are some issues which of course we would not like but I think that the general sense of the document is that an internal settlement cannot be a solution... the ethos is of an all-Ireland dimension," he told Reuters.

Major refused to put a timetable on the plan and ministers admit it could be

several months before political parties are ready to sit down and discuss it.

The three-point plan includes a new Northern Ireland Assembly, cross-border bodies to cement trust and economic cooperation, and British and Irish pledges to change rival claims to the sovereignty of the province of 1.5 million people.

It tries to enshrine equal treatment for the twin traditions of Northern Ireland - Protestant Unionists who pledge allegiance to the British crown and Catholic Irish Nationalists.

"It is a framework for discussion, not a blueprint to be imposed over the heads of anyone," Bruton said. "Its purpose is to facilitate not to pre-empt dialogue."

It proposes:

- setting up a new 90-seat Northern Ireland assembly elected by proportional representation to share power between the 60 percent Protestant majority and Catholic minority.
- changing Britain's and Ireland's constitutional claims to Northern Ireland to put the onus on its people to work out new relationships within the province and with Ireland
- setting up a cross-border body from the Assembly and the Irish parliament to oversee economic cooperation. Its decisions would have to be reached by unanimity, giving all sides a veto.
- drafting a bill of rights to safeguard the cultural and civil rights of Unionists and Nationalists.

France accuses five Americans of spying for CIA

PARIS (AP) - France has accused four American diplomats and a fifth US citizen of political, military and economic spying and asked them to leave the country. French officials said yesterday.

Hours after the spying allegations were first reported by the newspaper *Le Monde*, US Ambassador Pamela Harriman went to the offices of Premier Edouard Balladur. It was not known who requested the meeting, and no details of what was discussed were immediately available.

French media described the affair as the worst diplomatic rift between the two allies since a Paris newspaper published the names of purported CIA agents in France in 1976.

Harriman declined comment as she left her 30-minute meeting with Balladur and his aides. Balladur's office said the affair "should be handled with the greatest possible discretion" by the two nations' spy agencies.

According to *Le Monde*, Interior Minister Charles Pasqua wrote in a February 18 letter to President Francois Mitterrand that the five Americans worked for the CIA and were guilty of "acts of interference," including attempts to recruit aides to cabinet ministers.

The letter reportedly said the five - purportedly including the

CIA station chief for France - were uncovered in a "long, detailed investigation" by the Directorate for Territorial Surveillance, or DST, France's counter-intelligence service.

Late yesterday, in the first official statement on the affair, France's Interior and Foreign ministries issued a joint communiqué confirming that several Americans, including diplomats, had been asked to leave because of "activities incompatible with their status in France" - diplomatic jargon for espionage.

"The French government stresses that this matter should not put into question the solid and longstanding friendship between France and the United States," the statement said.

French officials, requesting anonymity, said France stopped short of ordering the five expelled and had asked the United States to withdraw them rapidly. They said the five, over a period of two to three years, had been gathering information of high-technology military products and other economic activities.

In Washington, White House press secretary Mike McCurry said, "There is precious little I can say at this moment. There are some discussions under way privately with the French government."

Russians shell towns close to Grozny

GOITY, Russia (Reuters) - Russian forces shelled rebel fighters and villages close to the Chechen capital Grozny yesterday and said they had failed a push to break through their lines into the shattered city.

Chechens in Goity, just south of Grozny, said they had come under fire during the night for the first time. Shelling of Alkhanyurt, west of the capital, was also clearly audible when a Reuters correspondent visited Goity before noon.

Itar-Tass news agency said the rebels had simultaneously attacked Russian positions from the north and south of Grozny during the night but were repulsed with heavy artillery fire.

Top Russian commanders ruled out talks with the rebels on Tuesday. But Tass quoted sources close to the Mozdok military command as saying yesterday that negotiations were still possible if the Chechens met a series of conditions.



Steve Fossett collects his balloon Tuesday after he landed at dusk in a farmer's field near Leader, Saskatchewan. The 50-year-old American stockbroker became the first person to fly solo across the Pacific, covering more than 10,000 kilometers on the four-day flight.

Youth killed by men pasting up right-wing posters in Paris campaign

PARIS (AP) - Men putting up campaign posters for the extreme-right National Front opened fire on a group of immigrant youths, killing a 17-year-old from Africa, police said yesterday.

It was the first serious political violence of France's presidential campaign, and raised fears of possible rioting in the low-income, heavily immigrant Mar-seille neighborhood where the shooting occurred late Tuesday.

Three suspects were taken into custody yesterday afternoon. Police said they were National Front members but declined to identify them for fear their families might be endangered.

Police: Nicole probably was killed first

LOS ANGELES - Nicole Brown Simpson was probably attacked before Ronald Goldman because she had no blood on the bottoms of her feet from the carnage, a lead detective in the O.J. Simpson case testified Tuesday.

In a gripping and often gruesome description of how the crime scene looked the day after the June 12 murders, Detective Tom Lange, the first of the two lead investigators to take the stand, said Goldman apparently put up a tremendous struggle because he had defensive wounds on the outside of his left hand and because there appeared to be freshly dug dirt near his body. "This was done with the flailing of feet," Lange said.

His body lay about four feet from Nicole Simpson's in a 4-by-6-foot area outside her Brentwood condo, Lange said. There was blood on the soles and other areas of his white sneakers.

As for Nicole Simpson, he said, "the victim was more than likely struck before there was any blood that flowed and perhaps went down initially before a fight really ensued with the other victim and didn't, obviously didn't,

walk through the blood during the struggle," he said.

On direct questioning by Deputy District Attorney Marcia Clark, Lange described a trail of bloody footprints and blood droplets and photographs of the bodies. One photo showed Goldman's body lying in shrubbery, "curled around a stump," inside the gated area of the walkway. The left leg of his blue jeans was soaked with blood and his shirt was partially pulled up, exposing his stomach. A pager and a set of keys, later identified as Goldman's, were found nearby along with the leather glove, blue-knit watchcap and white envelope containing Nicole Simpson's mother's glasses.

On cross examination, defense lawyer Johnnie Cochran asked Lange about the struggle at the scene, suggesting that defensive wounds on Goldman's hand and the fact that he was wearing a ring and carrying keys would indicate that he may have injured his killer.

Witnesses who saw Simpson within an hour of the murders said they saw no injuries.

"It's apparent that he put up a fight, yes," Lange said. *Newsday*

95 inmates, 4 guards killed in Algerian prison mutiny

ALGIERS (AP) - Security forces crushed a prison revolt by Islamic militants yesterday, killing at least 95 inmates after four guards were taken hostage and had their throats slit, authorities said.

Officials said inmates armed with homemade knives and other weapons took seven guards hostage Tuesday, then began organizing an escape of up to 1,000 jailed Islamic militants and regular prisoners.

Four of the guards were murdered, and more than a dozen other prison employees and security forces members were injured during the rebellion, Justice Minister Mohammed Tegui said on state radio.

Security officials later said at least 95 inmates were killed by

the security forces, including two jailed leaders of the Armed Islamic Group, the most hard-line of the guerrilla organizations fighting to topple the government.

Also killed, the officials said, was Lembarek Boumasrafi, convicted of the 1992 assassination of President Mohammed Boudiaf.

Unofficial press reports said the initial revolt involved about 40 or 50 of the hundreds of Islamic extremists at the prison.

The Justice Ministry said all the mutineers had been jailed for involvement in the three-year insurgency waged by Moslem militants against the army-backed government. An estimated 30,000 people have been killed in the conflict.

Mandela to meet Buthelezi, de Klerk to resolve crisis

CAPE TOWN (Reuters) - South African President Nelson Mandela will meet Deputy President F.W. de Klerk and Zulu leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi within days to resolve a crisis in his post-apartheid coalition, a cabinet source said yesterday.

Buthelezi, charging that he had been betrayed by Mandela and de Klerk, on Tuesday led his 43 Inkatha Freedom Party members out of the country's first democratic parliament.

He said he would ask a special party congress next month whether to return to parliament and whether he should remain in the transitional government of national unity as minister of home affairs.

"I do not see how anyone who is betrayed as I have been can ever take the word of those who have betrayed him," he said.

Buthelezi said he felt betrayed because Mandela and de Klerk had failed to implement an April, 1994, agreement to submit Inkatha's constitutional demands to foreign mediation.

De Klerk, leader of the National Party, which surrendered power to Mandela's African National Congress in last April's democracy elections, proposed a crisis summit in a statement after talks with Buthelezi yesterday.

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Lithuania reopens case against alleged Nazi following protests

TALLINN, Estonia (AP) - After a storm of protest from Jews and dismay from US officials, Lithuania has reversed a controversial decision not to prosecute an alleged Nazi war criminal from Massachusetts.

Officials said the initial decision not to pursue charges against 87-year-old Aleksandras Lileikis was because of insufficient evidence was made in haste.

"The feeling is that not all the documents were looked at and some were looked at too quickly," government press spokesman Vilnius Kavaliauskas told AP in a phone interview yesterday.

The new ruling by the prosecutor's office, announced late Tues-

day, does not mean Lileikis will automatically be charged, only that the case will be reopened.

Before Tuesday's announcement, Jewish groups at home and abroad complained that Lithuania was trying to duck responsibility for bringing a former Nazi to justice.

The Lithuanian president and prime minister also expressed displeasure with the decision two weeks ago to close the case against Lileikis, accused of complicity in murdering of scores of Jews.

Press reports speculated that Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas was anxious to have the decision reversed in advance of his February 28 trip to Israel.



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1520 من ال ص 1

Assemble your kitchen from a kit

OFF THE SHELF

MARTHA WEISLS

AMBITIOUS do-it-yourselfers can build their own kitchen cabinets with kits newly available at Home Center branches. The DIY chain estimates it takes 30 minutes to assemble each cupboard unit.

Home Center contends that householders can save thousands, or even tens of thousands, of shekels this way. It claims that professionally installed kitchen cabinets today cost homeowners between NIS 15,000 and NIS 50,000.

At the DIY chain, a four-meter length of upper and lower cabinets costs between NIS 3,000 and NIS 8,000. The price range reflects the choice of doors - which can be coated with melamine or Formica-type - formica-coated with wooden frames or solid wood. The cupboards themselves are made of compressed chipboard coated with melamine.

Chipboard (in Hebrew sibi) is the material commonly used by the industrialized kitchen cabinet companies. Many carpenters and manufacturers offer the more expensive option of plywood (called locally sandvich) for the cabinet walls and floors, but Home Center does not.

The DIY cupboard kits are made by a local manufacturer according to the specifications set by Home Center, which labels its house-brand products "Home Line." The chain provides free professional advice on designing a kitchen and cupboard assembly. Each kit comes with printed instructions, thus far in Hebrew only.

The assembled cabinets are all 75 centimeters high and 32 cm. deep. In widths, there is a choice of 60 cm. or 80 cm. with double doors, and 30 cm. or 40 cm. for single-door units.

The chain points out that, apart from price, another advantage of the DIY kitchen system is that it is available immediately, whereas orders for commercial kitchen cabinets are usually filled after three months.

The kitchen kits are sold at all five Home Center branches: in Rishon LeZion, Bnei Brak/Ramat Gan (opposite the Ayalon shopping mall), Haifa, Beersheba and Ashdod. The chain headquarters can be reached at (03) 579-9930.

These stores also offer almost everything else to equip a kitchen, including sinks, faucets, ceramic tiles, light fixtures, dishes, general housewares and even refrigerators.

THE COMPETING DIY chain, Kne u-Vue ("Buy and Build") has a special offer for newlyweds. Within the first six months of marriage, they are eligible for a 10 percent discount on any purchase at the chain. Couples must show a certificate of marriage or an updated identity card.

Until the end of this month, Kne u-Vue is holding an "international furniture happening," during which it is selling beds, tables, cupboards, dressers and buffets at discounts of 20 to 30 percent.

Kne u-Vue has three branches - in the industrial zone of Ra'anana, at the Kiryat Ata junction near Haifa, and in Jerusalem's Talpott industrial area.

DID YOU ever want to go to a public auction, but were afraid that the bidding would be out of your price range? Tomorrow at 2 p.m., the Tiroche Auction House of Herzliya Pituah will initiate a bargain auction for amateurs, which will henceforth be an auxiliary event of every regular auction.

Called "Happy Hour," the cut-rate auction will feature items and lots which must be sold at any price, and the bidding will begin at \$10. Tomorrow's premiere Happy Hour will include paintings, furniture, carpets, porcelain, silver pieces, and more. It is a cash-and-carry auction, and purchases must be taken away on the day of sale.

Although bidding is in dollar terms, payment is in shekels (except for foreign citizens). Cash and checks are acceptable, but no credit cards.

The auction takes place at the Tiroche Auction House, Kikar de Shalit, Herzliya Pituah, tel. (09) 509979. Wine and other light refreshments will be served.

IT SOUNDS too good to be true: a manual toothbrush with bristles which swirl around as in an electric toothbrush. It's the Sano Bio-Bright, made for Sano by a brush company at Kibbutz Ruhama. It is a US-patented design, and it carries the "ADA Acceptable" endorsement of the American Dental Association.

The handle and head of the brush are made from two pieces of plastic, joined together. When you brush back and forth normally, the action of the handle causes the central section of the brush to rotate. This imitates the up-and-down brushing - which many people fail to do - thereby cleaning the teeth more effectively, massaging the gums, and helping remove plaque.

Never having used an electric toothbrush, it is hard for me to draw a comparison to this manual innovation. But I do find that Bio-Bright leaves my teeth and gums with a particularly clean feeling, with very little effort on my part.

Only "soft" is available at this stage, and the recommended price is NIS 8.90.

If this product sounds familiar to some readers, it is because an earlier version, called BioBrush, was launched over a year ago. It had to be recalled from the market, after the plastic parts broke off in customers' mouths.

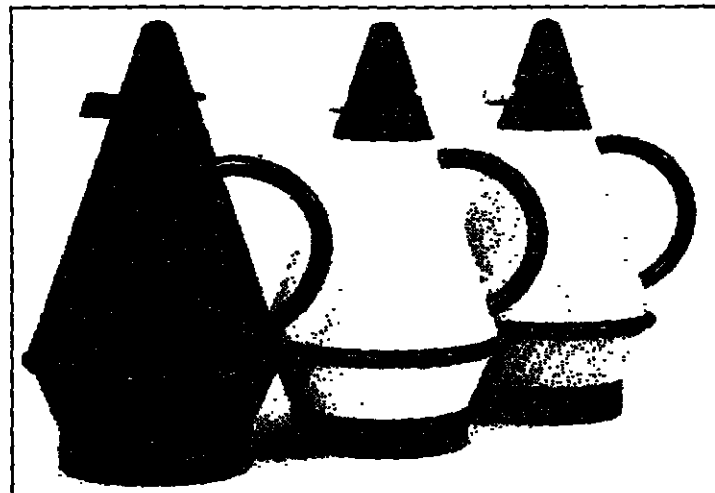
A spokesperson for Sano says the current BioBright model is made of much stronger plastic.

SECRET LINE is the trademark name of a new line of shampoos, conditioners and bars of toilet soap. If you know a minimum of Hebrew, you should recognize this new brandname as a translation of Sod, a familiar local name in laundry and dishwashing detergents. Sod, a subsidiary of Shemen, says that its Secret hair products contain an ingredient which helps soften our hard water. The products come in herbal, jojoba, multivitamin and silk protein versions for different types of hair. The price for all is NIS 12.99 per 500-ml. bottle.

The companion bars of soap come in the same varieties.



(From above:) Home Center offers do-it-yourself kitchen cabinets at cut-rate prices; cone-shaped, brightly-colored thermos bottles are being imported by G.A.D. Enterprises; ice-cream lovers can become card-carrying members of the Blue Moon ice-cream chain.



able and an obstacle to proper breathing. It can, however, be hand-held in front of the eyes. Optocard comes in five strengths, from 1 to 5, and is available at pharmacies for NIS 15.

THE OPTICANA optical chain says it has flexible stainless steel glasses frames for people who have an allergic reaction to conventional metal frames on the market.

Made by Brendel of Germany, the thin stainless steel frames start at NIS 319.

CONE-SHAPED thermos bottles in bright colors are being imported from the Far East by G.A.D. Enterprises, and sell for NIS 27 at chain stores and housewares shops. They hold one liter of hot or cold beverage.

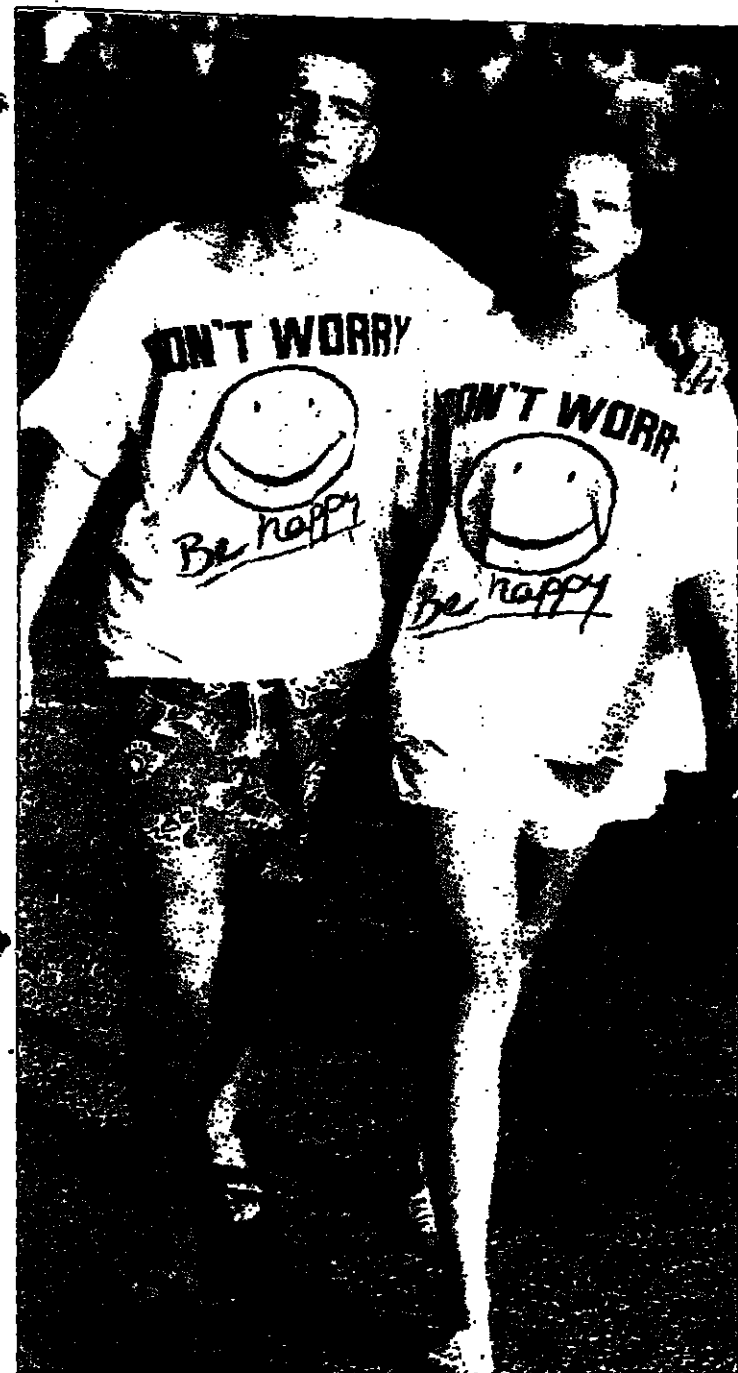
YOU CAN become a card-carrying member of the Blue Moon ice-cream chain, which operates 11 shops, in the Dan Region, Beersheba and Ashdod. To acquire steady-customer status, you must take a voucher from a cashier and collect five stamps attesting to purchases at the chain.

After that, you're eligible for a Blue Moon gold card entitling you to benefits such as a free half-kilo of ice cream every time you buy a kilo at the regular price of NIS 34, or a free topping on your ice-cream cones.



TELE-SAL, the telephone service of the Super-Sol supermarket chain, has opened an order processing center in Jerusalem, its 12th countrywide. It is intended to speed up orders for Jerusalem customers, previously processed through the Tele-Sal's Tel Aviv switchboard.

Wherever they live, customers use the same Tele-Sal ordering number - 177-022-5656. The service receives orders from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily, and until 1 p.m. Friday. At other hours, customers can leave an order on an answering machine or send a shopping list by fax, (03) 934-6047. Tele-Sal's service area stretches from the Haifa bayside communities in the North to Yavne in the South.



Instead of 'Don't Worry, Be Happy,' T-shirts will now be printed with keyboard characters from Internet. (Nathan Harari)

New T-shirts for the Internet set

GLAD RAGS

VIDA ROBERTS

TSHIRTS, those American wardrobe basics, have their own sliding scale of trendiness. Despite similar construction and cotton content, they continue to evolve with the times.

Sophisticates wear them plain - in black or white - confident that their own wit is superior to any manufactured slogan. Then there are the folks who are so out of the loop that they actually appear in public imprinted with something that says "Foxy Lady," "Don't worry, be happy" or "I'm with stupid."

In between, there are new entries daily, speaking up for the most current adjustments in lifestyle.

The latest on line are "Emotions" T-shirts from Netwear. With the Internet culture developing its own language, could T-shirts be far behind? The white T's are imprinted with symbols derived from standard keyboard characters that Internet users apply to express emotions or physical characteristics.

As the shirt promotion says, "Emotions have a different way of looking at the world. Just tilt your head to the left and smile." For example, the Emotion symbol for "happy" is :) , a smiley

face seen sideways. "Bummer" types up as :(.

For folks who have found the prescription for dealing with this stress-filled world there is the "Nobody Knows I'm on Prozac" T-shirt. It's the newest message from Don't Panic! Designs, the stores and catalog that cater to a gay and lesbian clientele.

Jeff Wentzel, spokesman for the company, feels "Prozac Pride" is the next wave of social evolution as more people come out and admit their need for emotional adjustment.

The US Postal Service, flush with its success with the Elvis stamp, has entered into a licensing agreement to reproduce some of the best stamp designs from its 150-year history on T-shirts and other casual attire.

Postmark American Wear will start marketing the clothing in March.

The stamp design themes will include wildlife, sports, movie stars and the environment.

American Eagle Apparel, the license holder, will have access to the Postal Service's archives as a resource, and the clothing will have tags or prints of the original stamp that inspired the design. (The Baltimore Sun)

BARGAIN BASEMENT

OFFERS

COMPUTER TABLE - white formica, pull-out shelf for word processor, 2 shelves on right side, good condition. NIS 300. 09-428757.

SINGER SEWING MACHINE - 10 years old, reconditioned within last year, excellent working order. NIS 300. 09-508701.

34 VIOLIN - without case and chinrest, NIS 160. 04-234335.

SINGLE BED - mattress, two arm chairs, all in good condition. NIS 250. 04-357059.

OVENSTOVE - in excellent condition. NIS 300 o.b.o. 06-758154.

TEARS AND LAUGHTER IN ISRAELI COURTROOM - book by Shmuel Chetani. NIS 15. 04-233707.

CAMPING EQUIPMENT - complete with tent, mattresses, sleeping bags, gas stove, fuel, lamp, etc. NIS 300. 02-814529. NIS. 300. 02-429955. NIS. 300. 02-429955. NIS. 300. 02-429955.

WASHING MACHINE - good condition. NIS 20. 04-234335.

SPRING MATTRESS - single, almost new. NIS 300. 02-813990.

MACLAREN UMBRELLA FOLDING BUGGY - with harness, excellent condition, 1 year old. NIS 200. 02-429955. NIS. 300. 02-429955. NIS. 300. 02-429955.

STEREO CABINET - NIS 180. 24 LP record. NIS 50. 02-813990.

SHIKMA DISPOSABLE PANTS - shaped, for adults (large size), 1 unopened package of 15 each. NIS 50. 02-429955. NIS. 300. 02-429955. NIS. 300. 02-429955.

PRENATAL EXERCISE TAPE - NIS 15; prenatal exercise tape. NIS 40; small pressure cooker. NIS 25; Fisher bamboo telephone table. NIS 25; Fisher 2-in-1 mountain tricycle. NIS 5. 02-813990.

LEATHER BOOTS - new, Italian, size 36, with thick chunky soles, black, casual shoes. NIS 100 each. 02-813990.

TOYS - NIS 10-15 each; women's books. NIS 5; SCM 110 electric. NIS 70; bed rail. NIS 10. 02-429955. NIS. 300. 02-429955. NIS. 300. 02-429955.

FISHER PRICE SWING - NIS 60; portable booster chair/high chair. NIS 30; Winco the Pook crib mobile. NIS 30; Fisher riding toy, like new. NIS 90. 02-429955. NIS. 300. 02-429955. NIS. 300. 02-429955.

CLOSETS - two 2-door, white. NIS 130 each; single-door closet with mirror, free. 02-732011.

FLATS - black suede, 9 West, 9 medium, new. NIS 95; pants outfit, Action Wear, small, new, cream/black, L/S. NIS 300. 02-732011.

RECHARGEABLE BATTERY PACK - Sony, NP 80. NIS 240. 02-813990. NIS. 300. 02-429955. NIS. 300. 02-429955. NIS. 300. 02-429955.

DAK STEREO CABINET - glass doors, 120 long, 46 deep, 80 high, on wheels. NIS 300. 02-429955. NIS. 300. 02-429955. NIS. 300. 02-429955.

RAINCOAT - men's, black, zip-in Thinsulate lining, size large (40). London Fog, like new. NIS 150. 02-232457.

WOMEN'S JACKET AND VEST - reversible, NIS 50; Unisex up shoes, size 37. NIS 80; but-mitza suit, size 18. NIS 75. 02-813990.

CHILDREN'S ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA - full set, excellent condition. NIS 100. 02-813990.

SCREWING PAPER - architectural/artist. Diergen, 6 rolls, 24" x 50 yds., NIS 30. 02-813990.

RIDING BOOTS - ladies', Joan and David, black leather, worn once, size 37. NIS 20. 02-813990.

BROTHER 1100 - Dot Matrix printer, excellent condition. NIS 250 o.b.o. 02-934011. 934522.

YOUTH BED - 2 mattresses, storage drawer for bedding, good condition. NIS 300. 02-813990.

BACK-REST PILLOW - new, for nursing mother or reading in bed. NIS 110. 02-519369.

CASIO ORGAN - with case, NIS 50; 35 Reader's Digest magazines, NIS 50 each; cream satin sheet set. NIS 100. 02-429955. NIS. 300. 02-429955.

WHAT TO EXPECT THE FIRST YEAR - book, like new. NIS 35. Easy, 02-813990.

BEIGE CABINET - on stilts, sits over toilet. NIS 75; gray carpet, 1.5 x 2.5, needs cleaning. NIS 50. 02-813990.

LACTASE MILK DIGESTANT - bottles of 100, double strength. NIS 25 each. 02-813990.

JUICER - AEG, almost new. NIS 300. 02-732011.

TRANSISTOR TESTER - RCA Electronic Instruments, in excellent condition. NIS 150 o.b.o. 02-813990.

KNITTED 2-PIECE - navy, barrow top with delicate white design, straight skirt. English size 14, NIS 95. 02-813990.

ELECTRIC SEWING - 117 x 147 cm., 3 heat levels. NIS 50; 2 heavy comforters, 2 x 1.5 m. NIS 100 each; electric heater, high only, 80 x 36 cm. NIS 50 o.b.o. 02-765054.

TECHNICAL DRAWING SET - Cutting pens, new. NIS 120; miter saw for cutting

ing buried coins. 09-423690, evenings.

CHEST OF DRAWERS - strong; stroller. Lego for children, good prices given. Karen, 03-9221555.

GOOD WOODEN DESK - 04-234335.

TABLE CHAIRS - a set for new Russian ottoman, will pick up in Haifa area. Nechama, 04-382219.

COMPUTER PARTNER - to study C and C++ languages. 02-617706. NIS.

BASEBALL CARDS - 02-731965, evenings.

LEFT WOOD - will pick up and pay. 02-923241. NIS.

MASSAGE TABLE - used, good condition, with face hole, height normal to slightly shorter, with carrying case if possible. 02-713496. NIS.

OFFICE TIME CLOCK - 02-376585.

FOR SERIOUS HISTORICAL RESEARCH - World War I diaries and memorabilia. Will be returned. David, 02-723769, over.

RADIO JERUSALEM MAGAZINE - Feb. 1936 to July 1938, for photocopying programs only. Petruska, 02-751318.

YOUTH BED - with pull-out, with pillows, in decent condition, will pay well. 02-846289.

RELIGIOUS PIANO TEACHER - for talented 7-year-old. 02-465626.

BALLROOM DANCING - group forming, seeking singles/couples to learn. Suzie, 02-829343/252381.

GUITAR - in good condition, reasonable price. 02-415915.

OFFICE EQUIPMENT - religious professional starting new organization to help olim find jobs. Can you help? Big mitzva. David, 02-538955. NIS.

4 VIOLIN - to borrow, rent or buy. 02-632115. NIS.

RED FRAME - for American twin-size mattress, or bed. 02-617829. NIS.

WALL CLOSET - 2 m. in good condition, reasonable. 02-465065. NIS.

PETS

FOUND - female Pinscher, looking for warm home. 02-662346.

ASSORTMENT - of rescued, friendly young cats, some spayed and neutered. 02-263521. NIS.

PART ROTTWEILER - spayed, vaccinated, gentle with kids and cats. NIS 300; also, friendly, rescued cats. 02-415805.

SHEPHERD CROSS - very beautiful, black and brown, 10 months old, spayed and vaccinated. lost owner to cancer, needs stable home. 02-17520.

GOLDEN RETRIEVER - female, eligible, looking for suitable mate, golden Labrador or even collie for breeding. 02-355306.

EXCHANGE

POTTERY STUDIO - use of, in exchange for help. 02-721257.

Sorry, no listings accepted without a coupon

BARGAIN BASEMENT - FREE CLASSIFIEDS

BARGAIN BASEMENT accepts ads of up to 20 words free of charge on these conditions: Only one ad per household per week. THE LIMIT per ad in the "offers" section is a TOTAL of NIS 300, and the price of each item must be stated in shekels. The following ads are NOT accepted: business offers; apartment sales, rentals or exchanges; car sales; job offers; situations wanted; solicitations for donations; offers of marriage or other personal relationship. Ads must be printed in English and submitted on the attached coupon. ADS MAY NOT BE SUBMITTED BY PHONE OR FAX. The right to reject or edit any ad is reserved.

Ads must reach The Bargain Basement, The Jerusalem Post, Rehov Yirmeyahu in Romema (POB 81, Jerusalem 91 000) by NOON Sunday of the week of publication. Because of space limitations, ads may be held over and published the following week.

The price of each item must be stated

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Address _____

MESSAGE _____

Tel. _____

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Beilin's Syrian lament

DEPUTY Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin's doubts about Syrian intentions, expressed with unusual bluntness in a Tuesday radio interview, are nothing if not puzzling. After repeated government assurances that Syrian dictator Hafez Assad is an honorable man who has undergone a dramatic transformation (which Foreign Minister Shimon Peres once described as "sensational.") Beilin doubts that "Syria has really reached a strategic decision to make peace with Israel."

"In fact," he said in the interview, "no practical negotiations with the Syrians have actually begun, despite the prime minister's assurance that the withdrawal [from the Golan] will be as deep as the peace."

Beilin's disappointment is as palpable as it is justified. The meaning of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's oft-repeated formula is crystal clear, and has been conveyed to Assad by the American mediators in no uncertain terms: for complete peace and normalization, there will be complete withdrawal. That the Syrians have nevertheless shunned serious negotiations - let alone reached an agreement with Israel - beggars understanding. "It leads one to think that perhaps it is not the Golan which is foremost on Assad's mind," said Beilin.

There are skeptics who believe these pessimistic government appraisals are nothing but a smokescreen. Smearing from the deceptive pronouncements which preceded the 1993 Oslo breakthrough with the PLO, they suspect that a secret deal is being prepared with Syria, and that a surprise may be imminent.

But it is more likely that the government's frustration, recently vented by Peres, who said "no one really knows what Assad wants," is genuine. The government has always considered the land-for-peace formula an irresistible offer the Syrians could not refuse. That in

exchange for the Golan, Syria would want to sign a peace treaty is the corollary of Rabin's conviction that no such treaty is obtainable without sacrificing the Golan.

If Syria is less than enthusiastic about the deal, it is because it wants to make peace with the US, not Israel. Israel's preemptive concession on the Golan has made Assad believe that he can repossess it at any time. After all, Israel's pledge to withdraw has been made not to him but to the US, and it is difficult to imagine an Israeli retreat from this commitment. What Syria is less certain of is the American concessions it needs.

Damascus wants to be taken off the State Department list of terror-sponsoring and drug-dealing states, enjoy a most-favored-nation status in trade relations with the US, and receive the kind of annual aid package Egypt has been getting for 15 years as a reward for signing a peace treaty with Israel.

With a conservative, quasi-isolationist Congress ensconced in Washington at least for the next two years, the chances of Syria getting its way are slim - particularly since there seems to be little inclination in Damascus to renounce terrorism and stop the drug trade.

The impasse is a sad commentary on Israel's negotiating policies. The government's headlong rush to sign a treaty with one of the world's most ruthless dictators is now stymied because the US, far less vulnerable than Israel to Syrian aggression, is more wary of Assad's intentions. It is time the government realizes that the ruler across the border is not the benign mirror-image of the prime minister the media commentators like to conjure up. He is an international thug who has violated every agreement he has ever made: a terrorist chieftain with whom real, lasting peace is no more attainable than it is with Saddam Hussein and Muammar Gaddafi.

Hamlet without the prince

NO one in his right mind would deny the United Nations needs an overhaul. During the Cold War, as *New York Times* columnist Thomas Friedman recently noted, "the Soviets and their pals could pass a resolution that the world was flat." Or, less amusingly, that Zionism is racism. With the passing of the Communist bloc, over-inflated expectations for the UN merely mirrored the same for a new world order. An overladen supertanker cannot change direction like a moped.

The main optimism for the UN's supposed new role stemmed from the Gulf War coalition, which it backed and legalized every step of the way to the liberation of Kuwait. Now, under a Republican Congress, the United States has embarked on a campaign to gut UN funds for peacekeeping. But the price Washington may pay for saving cash dollars will be a loss of influence in the world body.

The Republicans have virtually convinced the American public the UN is a bloated liability financed by their tax dollars. Certainly, at 31.7 percent of the peacekeeping budget, the

US contribution is substantial. But the European Union contributes 36 percent, and there are signs the Europeans will be ready to invest more to acquire some of the influence Congress seems happy to dump overboard.

Nor does the myth of savings stand up to close examination. The UN Association of the United States says that for every dollar Washington contributes, some 28 cents is returned to the US economy via peacekeeping contracts and staff salaries. In total, US businesses earn \$500 million annually for the \$3.5 billion spent.

UN funding needs more equitable distribution, and its bureaucracy needs drastic trimming. But for all its faults, the UN may be useful in an increasingly lawless world. It has failed to pacify Bosnia, Rwanda, and Somalia, but it has managed to feed millions of destitute people and occasionally reduce potential international conflagrations to brush fires. A UN without the US is worse than a Hamlet without the prince. It leaves the world stage open to every dangerous ham actor - like Saddam - who thinks he has a God-given role in history.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FREE SPEECH

Sir, - My friends in the US advise me that the Israeli government has ordered, through its consulates, that the American Jewish community deny MK Avigdor Kahalani a platform for his forthcoming visit to the US.

Proponents of the "peace plan" should find to comfort in this. It is axiomatic that the clash of ideas in open debate is the only way to the truth; it is the way of the democratic process. Suppression of the dissenting voice is the way of the fascist. While I would not apply that term to our present leadership, its conduct is a display of inexcusable insensitivity to democratic principles.

While the policies of Messrs. Rabin, Peres and Beilin are debatable, the issue of free argumentation is not. Even inhibition short of suppression must alarm all citizens, whatever their positions on the ongoing political process.

HAROLD KATZ

Ramat Hasharon.

RABINGRAD

Sir, - Reading and listening to the arguments as to where to build the fence, before, behind or around the kibbutz. I remember only too well the fences that the British built around themselves in Jerusalem in the '40s. The Palestinian Jews promptly nicknamed the British compounds "Bevingrad." It was the British who left the country and the Jews who stayed.

What is the prime minister trying to do? Fence in the Jews and have it called Rabingrad? Who will remain in Eretz Yisrael?

MURRAY S. GREENFIELD

Tel Aviv.

MEDIA PORN

Sir, - Thank you, Judy Siegelitzkovich, for your timely article of February 12, "A plague of media porn."

I truly hope that it will have a positive impact on those Israeli news media that abuse the right of free speech with pornographic advertisements and other lewd and vulgar trash. I am by no means a prude, but certainly common decency would dictate that perverted nudity and socially unacceptable sexual activity advertisements should be kept from the impressionable minds of our children. As you stated in the article, we could very well do without imparting the worst aspects of America's societal maladies. Certain positive American life-styles should be emulated, and lest we forget, traditional Jewish values are still available.

Our female representatives in the government and Knesset are apparently more concerned with the advancement of sexual equality for our daughters than with their physical security and sexual integrity. If this is what feminism is all about in the

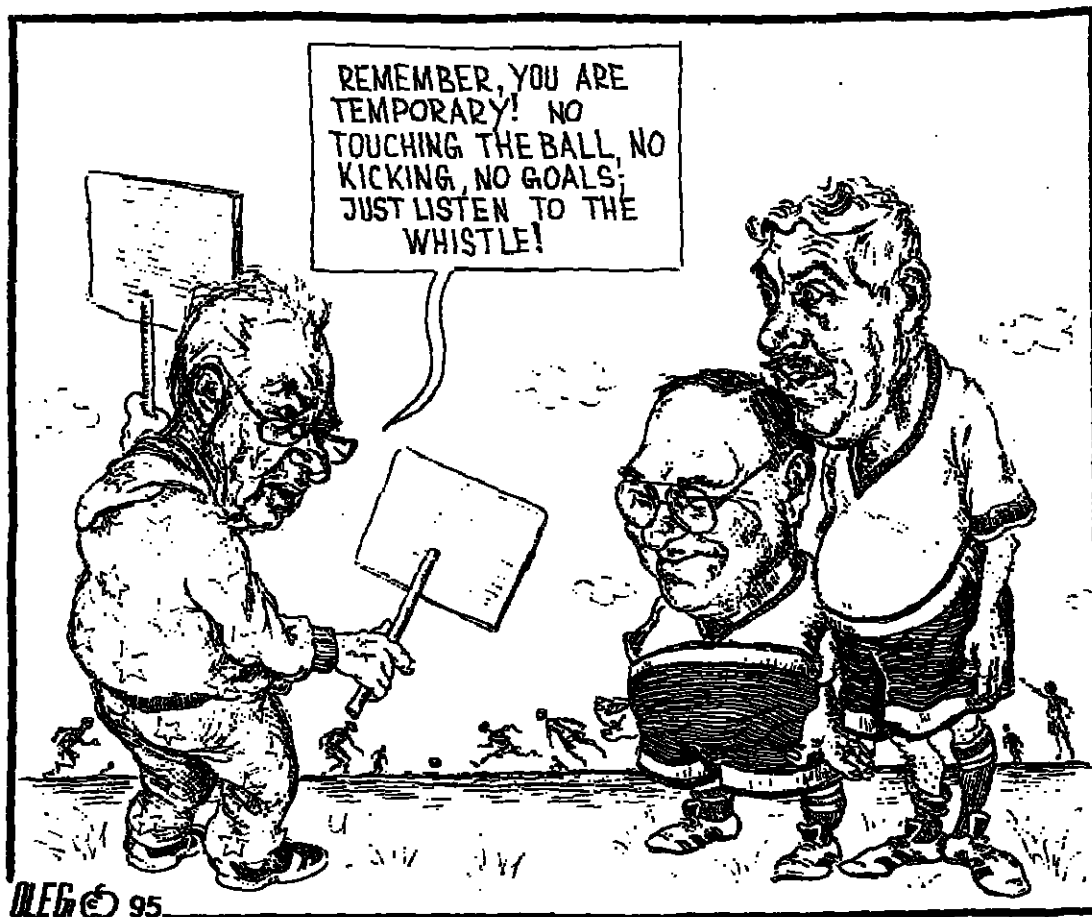
State of Israel, then I prefer a more "sexist" society, in which my daughter's life and dignity will be respected.

DR. ESTER FRIDE ALPERSTEIN
Eilat.

MOVED

Sir, - I was profoundly moved, as I feel sure were many others, by the viewpoint expressed so poignantly by MK Avraham Ravitz about the photos at Yad Vashem ("A sign of respect," February 10). I most earnestly hope that Yad Vashem will heed MK Ravitz's entreaty and act upon it. In a matter such as this, the community should, must be united.

BESSIE STOLLER
Ashdod.



A return to the shtetl

LONG before Israel's statehood was declared in 1948, the credo was clear: "Jews will no longer be killed with impunity. Jewish blood is precious."

And so it was. Entebbe was an outstanding demonstration: The world applauded and Diaspora Jews and Israelis were filled with joy when Israeli commandos flew to Entebbe in July 1976 to free their coreligionists who had been hijacked by terrorists. And how Israelis cheered when Golda Meir ordered the Mossad to hunt down and slay the Arabs who murdered our athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics.

It wasn't only terrorists who were subject to Jewish justice. In 1960 Adolf Eichmann was kidnapped in a daring operation in Buenos Aires and brought to Jerusalem to face trial for masterminding the Holocaust. Other Nazis, like Herbert Cukors, a former SS officer responsible for the murder of 32,000 Latvian Jews, also perished at the hands of Israeli hunters who sought justice.

Anti-Jewish terror existed before the Munich massacre and continued after it. But all the evidence pointed to the fact that many terrorists were deterred by the fear of certain retribution. And the new-style fighting Israeli enabled Jews everywhere to walk tall after the misery of 2,000 years of subservient exile.

But the fateful terrorist bomb attack on an Istanbul synagogue in September 1986, in which 22 Jews were slaughtered while at prayer, virtually ended the heroic Israeli era. The image of the fearless sabra who had turned his back on ghetto life and the fear that antisemites could strike him and his family began to fade.

Prime minister Peres did vow retribution for the attack, thundering, "We will not rest until we chop off the murderous arm that carried out the attack." And Yitzhak Shamir, his deputy premier in the national unity government, chipped in with "Every Jew's heart bleeds."

But nothing happened. We never heard about any chopping down of Jew-killers, despite Israel's conviction that they could trust their leaders to act in the spirit of a Ben-Gurion or a Golda Meir, or like Menachem Begin, who nipped the threat of an Iraqi atomic bomb in the bud. From Istanbul on, there has

URI DAN
DENNIS EISENBERG

been a long series of attacks on Jews in London, Buenos Aires and on Israeli soil, with decreasing acts of retribution. But our leaders have offered little more than empty clichés like "They will pay with their blood."

Worse still, they wring their hands and say: "It's impossible to prevent suicide bombers." In the same breath as issuing threats to

Israel's leaders have ended the era of the new-style, fearless, heroic Jew

"punish the criminals," they release terrorists in their thousands. These freed enemies are only too eager to kill again.

MUCH CAN be done if there's the will to bring terrorists to trial. This has been proved in past weeks by the US security services, which are backed by leaders who value every single one of their citizens' lives. No American president would ever dare insult his fellow countrymen by describing terror victims as "the price of peace."

The CIA caught Ramzi Ahmed Yousef, mastermind of the World Trade Center bombing, in Moslem Pakistan. American officials believe that the Kuwaiti-born Ramzi is also responsible for plots to blow up the American and Israeli embassies in Bangkok, and possibly to kill the pope in Manila.

They also believe that he was behind the cruellest air hijacking ever - in December 1984. Arabs seized a Kuwaiti plane, tortured several passengers and slew two Americans. One of them was made to beg for his life on an Iranian airport tarmac, then shot in the head.

The US swore to get the killers. They have also never let them in their quest to find the terrorists who gunned down US citizens in Sudan, Germany, Lebanon and other countries.

It is ironic that former secretary of state George Shultz turned to Jewish sources to express his country's "no-holds-barred" approach. "He who rises

to slay you, slay him first," Shultz declared.

This firm declaration of intent was made 18 months before Shimon Peres vowed retribution against the killers of the 22 Jews in Turkey. The difference between hollow words and real deeds speaks for itself: The Americans bombed Muammar Gaddafi's Tripoli Palace in a determined bid to kill him, and they reached out to Pakistan to pluck out another man on their wanted list.

What have Israeli leaders been doing since 1985?

In the past few months alone, they have turned a blind eye to the murderers of Uri Megidish who, as members of Yasser Arafat's Gaza police force, knew they are in no danger of being hunted down to face trial in Israel.

Ziad Abu Ain, who killed two teenagers and injured 36 more in Tiberias 16 years ago, has been named the Palestinian Authority's comptroller, in charge of exposing corruption. His freedom also mocks the Israeli "paper tiger."

And, of course, there's Arafat himself. That ultimate terrorist slayer of Jews is being championed by the present government in its bid for peace at any price.

Arafat has made vague promises to stop terrorism. But, as Begin said when asked if he trusted Sadat to keep his word given at Camp David: "Listen to what Sadat says to an Arab audience, not to his declarations to European journalists."

What is Arafat actually saying? Two days after the slaughter of 21 Israelis at Beit Lid, he told cheering students at the Islamic Women's Gaza University: "You, the women of Palestine of tomorrow, must follow the lead of our two women heroines." He then mentioned by name the Arab woman who shot dead Zvi Klein of Ofra in 1991 and the woman terrorist who took part in the bus attack on the Haifa road in 1978.

In the face of incitement like this and the terror it fomented, our leaders are behaving as though they have returned to the shtetl.

The writers are authors of *The Mossad: Secrets of the Israeli Secret Service and other books on the Middle East*.

POSTSCRIPTS

IT TOOK a moment for Kevin Tupper to fully realize what the message blinking on his computer screen meant.

"Please pray for us," the message began. "Last night Becky said she had no love left for me, and money was the only thing stopping divorce. I am lost."

Tupper, 28, of Centerville, Virginia, was convinced he was looking at a suicide note.

After happening upon the anonymous message on a computer bulletin board, Tupper tracked down the author and notified police in Indiana, who rescued the man in the nick of time.

The cry for help was first noted on the "Christian Interactive Network." Sharon Herbitter, of Florida, discovered the despondent note buried beneath dozens of other messages and announcements.

"I have tried to end it tonight," the message said. "[I] put the truck in the garage and turned it on... I don't know how long I can resist the need to be free from the hurt."

Herbitter panicked. "I didn't know this man, but it really hit me hard. I was crying, typing messages. I felt like I was seeing somebody standing on a bridge and there was nothing I could do."

Two hours later, when Tupper signed on, he received a message, asking if he wanted to join in a computerized "chapel." As computer users across the US typed prayers for the man, Tupper worked at finding the suicidal man. Using the ID number that accompanied the suicide note, he found the man's name and city on the membership directory.

"I said, 'You all pray, I'm going to call 911,'" recalled Tupper. "Prayer is good, but sometimes you've got to act."

Tupper phoned police in Miami, Ind., a rural town of 400. Police were caught off guard by the call.

"They didn't understand how I could know if someone was about to kill himself in Indiana," Tupper said. "I explained as quick as I could." When a policeman arrived at the man's home, he

heard an engine running inside the closed garage. He kicked in the door and found the 40-year-old man slumped in his pickup truck. "Another 20 minutes, I don't think he would have made it," the policeman said.

The following day, Tupper and Herbitter learned of the cyber-space rescue.

A BEAUTY contest in Saudi Arabia?

Yup. Islam's most extreme conservative society is proud to announce that Miz'al is the finest beauty in the land.

Miz'al, mind you, is male.

And a goat.

Miz'al was selected "beauty king" over runnerup Wardi, with Aswad taking third place.

There were also beauty queens, and prizes totaled 113,000 riyals (\$30,133), in addition to a car and several sets of gold pieces.

It was the second such annual beauty contest. Winning goats can fetch incredible prices, with the price of the best varieties going up to 300,000 riyals (\$80,000).

Did Elvis have it?

JERRY ZEJIMA

MEN, do you belch frequently? Do you have heartburn, stomach distention and vague abdominal discomfort?

Do your eyes pop out of your skull every time you sit down?

Here's some sound medical advice: Drop your pants.

Or better yet, exchange them for a larger size.

That's because you may be suffering from an ailment that strikes nine out of 10 adult males in the US.

I refer, of course, to TPS, otherwise known as Tight Pants Syndrome.

This very real medical problem, which also may be considered a fashion statement, was discovered by Dr. Octavio Bessa Jr., a veteran internist with a practice in Stamford, Connecticut, who recently announced his discovery of Tight Pants Syndrome in a letter to the editor of *Archives of Internal Medicine*, a weekly journal published by the American Medical Association.

"Every year I treat patients who present themselves with a similar group of complaints: vague abdominal discomfort, distention (at times radiating to the chest), heartburn and frequent eructations (belches). These symptoms frequently occur two or three hours after meals."

"The patients are typically middle-aged men who have always appeared healthy, except for these on-and-off digestive complaints. Usually they have undergone gastroscopy, tomographic scans and other tests without conclusive results."

"I have been able to diagnose these patients easily by compar-

Tight Pants Syndrome: Sufferers are victims of fashion

ing the size of their trousers with their abdominal girth," Bessa wrote. "There is usually a discrepancy of three inches or more."

A good example is a 67-year-old airline pilot who had complained for two years of vague abdominal symptoms and a sensation of skipped heartbeats. His circumference difference was 3.5 inches. I recommended pants of a larger size, worn with suspenders, and his symptoms disappeared.

"I have concluded that 'tight pants syndrome' is a self-induced problem that interferes with the motion of the intestines. Awareness of this medical curiosity will reduce both suffering and needless medical expenses."

After reading this letter, it occurred to me that if only Bessa had discovered Tight Pants Syndrome earlier, Elvis might still be alive.

WHAT IS the fashion industry doing to eradicate TPS? And what size pants does Bessa wear?

"Size 36," the good doctor said when I called him for a private consultation. "I used to be a 34."

Bessa, who has been practicing medicine for 30 years, said he has been studying TPS for a long time and has concluded that 90 percent of men suffer from it. "More often than not, women buy pants for their husbands," he explained. "Most men don't want to go shopping, so they just stuff themselves into whatever their wives buy them."

Other than switching to light beer, what can men do to help themselves? "Wear larger pants and buy suspenders," said Bessa, adding that he has seen "an expanding number" of men with Tight Pants Syndrome.

Norman Karr is executive director of the Fashion Association in New York. "It's not up to us to tell people, 'Hey, your pants are too tight,'" he said. "Of course, we would like to see this problem eradicated. So my advice is: Buy pants that fit."

As someone who wore tight pants in high school, I think Bessa has made a brilliant medical breakthrough. He should, at the very least, win the Nobel Prize.

I just hope he doesn't get too big for his britches.

(Stamford Advocate)

Wife worried about hubby's affair of faith

DEAR RUTHIE
RUTHIE BLUM



Dear Ruthie,
When my husband began acting strangely a few months ago, I was sure he was having an affair. He became distant, and our intimate relations became almost nonexistent. I finally confronted him and was shocked by his response: he was returning to religious Judaism. All of these months he has been studying with a rabbi in secret! And he didn't include me in the process. Instead, he says that either I join him on his new path or I'm out. I am hurt and angry, and do not know to whom to turn for guidance.

Replaced by Religion
Mevasseret Zion

Dear Replaced,
Normally, when a problem is so profound as to warrant professional help, I suggest therapy. In your case, however, consulting a rabbi first might be better. Your husband's secrecy and distance are worrisome and unbefitting the spirit of Judaism. I find it hard to believe your husband's rabbi encouraged him to shut you out, unless he's a complete charlatan.

If your husband is really undergoing a religious awakening, you will be forced to decide whether you can or wish to accompany him.

He may have hesitated to be open with you, fearing that you would react negatively, but his behavior does not bode well for sound marital relations. This, too, will be something with which to contend.

Dear Ruthie,
My parents raised me as a Zionist. They sent me to Jewish camps, encouraged me to join a youth movement and brought me to Israel for my bat mitzva. I spent a year after high school on a kibbutz. They were very proud. But when I finished college and made aliyah, they were devastated. I have been here for three years now.

My father just sent me a long letter telling me to forget any financial aid in the future if I insist on "throwing my future away." I

am having great difficulty making ends meet on my meager salary. I am so hurt at being treated like a rebel or a bad girl. I fluctuate between wanting to pack up and go home, and severing relations with my parents altogether. Can you advise me?

Aliya Ailing
Jerusalem

Dear Ailing,

Your fluctuation between two extremes shows you are listening solely to your parents' "voice." Sadly, the message you received all of your life was a double one. It didn't occur to you that carrying your upbringing to its logical conclusion would constitute an affront to those who brought you up.

Now that you are grown, however, you have to listen to your own voice. No easy feat, for sure. But once you hear it, you will not have to decide about staying in Israel either as a form of retaliation or as a method of wooing favor. You will be opting to live according to your own convictions.

If you can figure out what they really are, the financial question will loom less large. As will the question of whether you are a good or a bad girl.

Dear Ruthie,

My grandmother will be celebrating her 90th birthday soon. She always has said that it's silly to buy her presents ("What? I should take them with me to the grave?") So, asking her what she wants is out of the question.

Gift-Giving Granddaughter
Kfar Sava

Dear GGG,
A photograph of as many immediate family members as you can gather together - blown up and framed - would make a very nice, sentimental 90th birthday present.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. (Ruthie regrets not being able to guarantee publication of every letter, but will answer every letter received.)



Eat those burgers while they're still around; by the year 2050, they may be a rarity.

Eating in the year 2050: Food will be sparser, healthier

LIFESTYLES
PAUL REGER

ENERGY shortages, exhausted land, scarce water and a doubling in population will combine to radically change the US diet by the year 2050. Expect less meat and dairy, more grains and beans, and a sparser variety of vegetables.

A panel of experts said recently that land in the US has already been pushed nearly to the limit of production, and crop-yield increases are not going to keep up with an American population that will double within 60 years.

That means there will be less meat and more potatoes, pasta and beans on dinner tables, the experts said at the national meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

American agriculture depends heavily on oil, using about 532 liters of petroleum for every acre of corn. US oil wells will be sucked dry within 20 years, said Albert Allen Bartlett of the University of Chicago.

To add to the problems, the amount of water available for irrigation is declining.

Pimentel said the US will cease to be a food exporter by about 2025 if those trends continue, because all the food will be needed to feed Americans.

Meat and dairy products, the most expensive to produce, will become far less common, he said. The American diet is now 31 percent animal products. Pimentel said. By 2050, that will drop to 15%, with the remaining 85% from plant products.

"It will actually be a healthier diet," he said.

These trends are largely driven by a 1.1 percent per year population increase, said Bartlett, Pimentel, and another speaker, Virginia Abernethy of Vanderbilt University.

Abernethy said most of this increase is attributable to immigration. (AP)

German publisher pulls book on post-Holocaust Jewish revenge

BOOKS

DAVID STREITFELD

A German publisher has abruptly withdrawn a book that investigates the Jewish role in running internment camps in Poland after World War II, saying the work otherwise could be "cause for some misunderstanding." The 6,000 copies printed will be destroyed.

One review was apparently enough to convince the publisher, Piper Verlag, that it had made a mistake in taking on American journalist John Sack's *An Eye for an Eye: The Untold Story of Jewish Revenge Against Germans in 1945*. Critic Elke Geisel said in a Frankfurt newspaper that the book was "an audacious lie," "vile docudrama" and "antisemitic fodder."

Sack has been fending off charges like this for two years. He responds that the critic "re-wrote scenes from the book to convey a sadistic sensationalism that he then 'credits' to me."

Says Sack: "The review is shocking."

But Viktor Niemann, the newly installed head of Piper, is more upset by the book itself. He said he didn't find the journalist's lively treatment credible: "We want a documentation that is thick and indisputable."

In a statement, Niemann said he was concerned that the book would be used by extremists to minimize the evil deeds of the Nazis.

A key figure in Sack's book is Solomon Morel, who lost his father, mother, brothers, uncles, aunts and all but one cousin in the Holocaust. For six months after the war, Morel ran an internment camp for German civilians in the Polish community of Swietochlowice.

Former inmates told Sack that Morel brutalized, tortured and killed some of the German civilians housed at the camp.

Two years ago, Morel fled to Israel; Polish authorities are reportedly considering filing mur-

der charges against him.

The extent to which Morel's Jewishness relates to his actions has been part of the controversy surrounding *An Eye for an Eye*. Sack wrote that the Polish Office of State Security, which ran the camps, was headed by a Jew, and that most of the department heads and at least 30 percent of the officers were Jews. Between 60,000 and 80,000 ethnic Germans are believed to have died in the camps, whether from disease or deliberate maltreatment.

Sack's work has had a contentious history. Originally written as a long narrative for the magazine *GQ*, it was killed at the last minute. The *Village Voice* then printed it. In late 1993, *An Eye for an Eye* was published by Basic Books, a scholarly and respected imprint.

A feature by 60 Minutes that backed up Sack seemed to promise major attention and at least minor best-sellerdom, but the rest of the media either attacked or ignored the book. The general tenor was summed up in a *Miami Jewish Week* headline: "Do Me a Favor - Don't Read This Book."

The most severe criticism came from Daniel Goldhagen in the *New Republic*. In a 3,000-word onslaught, Goldhagen slammed Sack with phrases like "wildly out of focus and exaggerated," "sheer inventions" and "not beneath resorting to outright fictionalization."

Even some supporters believed that Sack - a longtime practitioner of what used to be called New Journalism - employed an inappropriate style. An otherwise sympathetic account in *New York Magazine* called *An Eye for an Eye* "hyperactively written."

For all the accusations against him, Sack is unbowed. "I had a moral duty to write this book," says the man who was voted "most religious" in his Torah class. "I would do the whole thing all over again." (The Washington Post)

Installing new glass in a window need not be a complete pane

FIX IT YOURSELF
TAL KATZ

REMEMBER that glass pane on the terrace door that cracked last year when your toddler whacked it with his toy hammer? The one you've been meaning to take to the glazier? The one you doctored with masking tape?

Remember that terrible wind storm a couple of weeks ago that practically blew your house to Oz? Remember the hole it left in your bedroom window? The one you've been covering with a blanket?

Well, replacing a windowpane is not the work of wizards.

Materials required: gloves (kfafor avoda), with leather palm, which cost NIS 5 or NIS 6 at a hardware store; tape measure; hammer; screwdriver; pliers; kitchen knife; and red glazier putty (merk adam) - about two fistfuls. (Note that these items are required for wood-frame windows, not those with aluminum frames.)

Directions

- Remove the window or door by lifting it up and out of its hinge.
- Lay the window flat on a table

or on the floor. Wearing gloves, pull out the glass, starting from the crack or hole. Apply as much force as necessary.

- When the frame is glass-free, remove all the old putty from around the edges by chiseling it out with a hammer and a screwdriver. Do this carefully, so as not to damage the wood.

- When the putty has been completely removed, you will see small nails (virtually headless) at intervals along all four sides of the frame.

- Remove each one with a tug of the pliers. Put the nails aside to be used again later. If they are bent during extraction, straighten them by hammering against a hard surface. (Since their function is to keep the glass in place before putty is applied, it is not necessary that they be in perfect condition.)

- Measure (to the millimeter) the width and length of the inside of the frame, not the hole. (The window will be larger than the hole, as it rests on a "step.")
- Take your list of measurements and your tape measure to a glazier. The glazier will cut the glass a bit smaller than your measurements (to allow slight freedom of movement of the pane in the frame). Standard panes are 3 mm. thick. Heavy-duty glass is 4 mm. thick. If you are uncertain about the thickness of your window, bring a sample of the broken glass with you when purchasing the pane.

It is preferable - in terms of selection and price - to go to the

larger glass outlets (usually in industrial shopping areas) than to smaller, neighborhood glaziers. Purchase the putty from the glazier. Some shops will sell you only a can of putty (rather than a "handful"). A can costs about NIS 10.

- Center the new pane on its frame. (Again, laying it flat on a table or the floor.)
- Replace the nails you removed earlier by laying them down on the glass, with the point in the

direction of the wood. Place the hammer down on the glass. Hold the nail down with your finger while hammering it into the frame with a sliding motion. Do this carefully, as the hammer will be sliding along the glass.

The nail should overlap the pane, not be hammered all the way into the wood. Repeat at intervals similar to the original. There should be about three lengthwise, and two along the width.

- Knead the putty in your hands, between palm and fingers, for a few minutes. This prepares it for easier application.

- Tear small pieces off the "wad" in your hand, and squash them generously at intervals along the edge of the frame (where the glass meets the wood, over the nails).

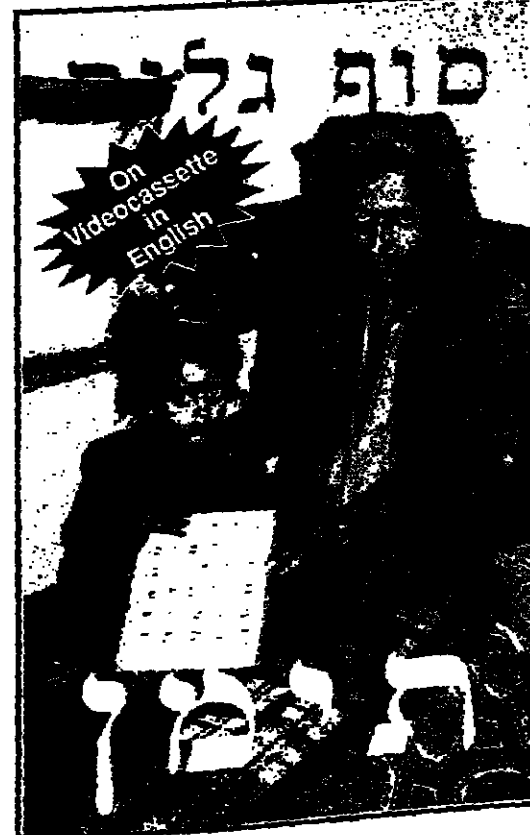
- With a regular kitchen knife (not as sharp as a steak knife), smooth the putty along the crack. The knife should be tilted so that its duller edge is "scraping" and "shaping" the putty into place. Extra putty will begin falling away onto the glass. Collect all excess putty and knead it together for reuse.

Don't get frustrated if the putty doesn't cooperate on your first try. You can always remove it and do it again, until you achieve a smooth, slanted surface. Compare it to another window, to see what it's supposed to look like when you're done.

Allow to dry for a week or two (depending on the weather) before painting. Remove wet putty smudges on the glass with kerosene, and dried putty smudges with a razor blade.

If you have a question or can suggest simple solutions to problems, write to: Fix It Yourself, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000.

DRIVE CAREFULLY!



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BUSINESS & FINANCE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1995

\$250 million in insurance for projects abroad approved

FINANCE Minister Avraham Shohat yesterday approved \$250 million in insurance for large business projects abroad by the Israel Foreign Trade Insurance Corporation (IFTRIC).

The decision opens the way for local companies to participate in large international projects in developing countries.

The Treasury approved \$85m. in coverage for four projects by Israeli companies in central and south America, the \$60m. participation in a chemicals project in the Far East, and up to \$100m. for establishing an oil refinery in Egypt.

Treasury officials confirmed that the Egyptian project is led by Medor owner Yossi Maiman, who previously requested US loan guarantees funds to back the project. The Treasury refused and instead will provide insurance against political risks.

JOSE ROSENFELD

IFTRIC director Doron Klausner refused to identify the companies involved, but said the projects included water purification, thermal energy and chemicals.

Klausner explained that unlike regular export transactions, where payment by the buyer is backed by the foreign government or bank against the goods sold, the project's debt is repaid from the cash flows it generates.

This increases the risk of default, since if the project is not successful it will fail to provide the cash flow necessary to pay back its debt. As a result, developing countries are reticent to guarantee the projects, especially since they tend to be overburdened with debt.

Although IFTRIC will only insure against political risks, it is

considering extending its coverage in the future, said Klausner.

Nevertheless, it will still insist on extensive review of projects to ensure their viability so it can clearly distinguish between political and business risks.

Klausner said Israel will only insure projects that are also backed by another country's foreign trade risk insurance company which has a project finance division with the technical expertise to evaluate the projects.

The insurance will cover credit for a period of up to 10 years from the time the project is completed. IFTRIC will cover against the risks of nationalization, confiscation, war, revolution, civil insurrection and political acts which would prevent the firm's business activity.

The new program requires the Knesset Finance Committee's approval.

Commercial banks cut lending rate

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

ALL five of the country's main commercial banks will lower their prime lending rates by 0.7 percentage points today, in response to the Bank of Israel's similar reduction in the interest rate.

The banks said they would cut their prime lending rates to 17.8%.

First International Bank was the first to announce the decrease several hours after the Bank of Israel's announcement. United Mizrahi Bank, Bank Leumi, Bank Hapoalim and Bank Discount followed one day later.

The banks did not change the rates they charge on other borrowing components.

Bank Leumi, United Mizrahi Bank and First International Bank's risk premium will remain three percent, while Israel Discount Bank and Bank Hapoalim's risk premium will remain at 2.8% and 2.5% respectively.

The interest rate penalty for unauthorized credit will remain 3% at Leumi and United Mizrahi. Discount Bank will continue to charge 2.8%, First International 2.7% and Hapoalim 2.6%.

Approval given for Israel Shipyards sale

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE cabinet economics committee yesterday gave the go ahead for the sale of Israel Shipyards to SKO Car Investments and SKO Car Ltd, after Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair stated there were no legal impediments.

The committee authorized the Government Companies Authority to continue with the sale.

The authority yesterday forwarded Finance Minister Avraham Shohat's request to approve the sale to the Knesset Finance Committee.

Following the committee's approval, the government will ask

the courts to take the company out of receivership to enable the sale to be completed.

The group, which includes Shlomo Shmeizer's 25 percent stake, beat the Admiral group in a second round of bidding.

SKO Car agreed to a number of conditions not included in the original tender.

For example, the buyers agreed to maintain the company as a shipyard and pay any workers it dismisses in the next two years the same compensation that a group of fired workers received in March.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

TASE board removes 10% limit on fluctuation in shares: The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange board of directors has approved the removal of the 10 percent limit on daily fluctuations in shares on the Two-Sided market. The decision now requires the approval of the Securities Authority.

An additional decision to remove the quarter percent limit on Two-Sided bids has already been approved by the Securities Authority. The new method will allow them to increase by whole points.

Agreement signed with Jordan for protection of investments: Israel and Jordan yesterday initiated an agreement for the protection of investments. Treasury International Division Director Ehud Kaufman said yesterday. The deal aims to encourage and protect investments from both countries.

Bank Leumi le-Israel (Switzerland) completed the year with a nine percent rise in net profits to Sfr 33 million. Net return on equity fell to 18.9 percent from 20.1% in the previous year. The bank's total assets remained virtually unchanged at Sfr 754m. This sum does not include deposits and securities portfolios held in trust for the bank's customers. A Bank Leumi spokesman said the bank does not publish quarterly results.

Bank Leumi Switzerland operates branches in Zurich and Geneva. The bank's main activities are private banking services and management of investment portfolios. Toward the end of the year, Meir Gross was appointed general manager.

Lodzia Rotex Textiles has started to import underwear from Italy. The veteran textile manufacturer has signed an exclusive marketing agreement with Andre Sataux and an exclusive production agreement with one of the large underwear manufacturers in Italy.

WORLD BRIEFS

Metal says strike to start tomorrow: German engineering workers in the rich south German state of Bavaria will go out on strike from tomorrow, Klaus Zwickel, head of the three-million strong IG Metall union told a news conference yesterday. Zwickel said the strikes are to back a six percent pay claim.

The strike will be the first in Germany's engineering industry in 11 years. Zwickel said the vote, which gave 88 percent support for a strike, should be seen as a message to employers not to escalate the conflict further. The employers have made no offer in response to the demands.

Philips doubles '94 profits and dividends: Europe's biggest consumer electronics company, Philips Electronics NV, said yesterday it had more than doubled 1994 profits and dividends. The group added that its five-year restructuring plan had put it on the right track. Philips said net income from normal business operations leapt to 2.05 billion guilders (\$1.24 billion) from 856 million (\$519 million), toward the top of a 1.85-2.05 billion guilders (\$1.12-1.24b.) analysts' forecast range.

Group turnover climbed to 60.98 billion guilders (\$37.7b.) from 58.83 billion (\$35.7b.), while the dividend rose to 1.25 guilders per share from a previous 0.50 guilders.

Hanson slashes debt with demerger of 34 US businesses: British-based conglomerate Hanson said yesterday it planned to demerge 34 non-core US businesses and other assets through the flotation of a new company called US Industries Inc (USI). The group said the move, which will form a diversified consumer business with annual revenues of around \$3 billion, would help clear the way for more Hanson acquisitions.

Hanson shares rose on the news, touching 242 pence before easing to 240-1/2, five pence above Tuesday's close.

Sweden's Astra posts 23% earnings rise: Swedish pharmaceutical firm Astra reported a 23 percent rise in pre-tax 1994 earnings yesterday. Pre-tax profit jumped to 9.616 billion crowns (\$1.31 billion) in 1994 compared to 7.818 billion. Swedish stock markets had been expecting a slightly larger profit, however, and marked Astra's share down 3.5 crowns to 192 crowns in heavy trade.

Astra, Europe's fastest-growing drugs firm, said sales were expected to continue increasing at a considerably faster rate than the growth of the total market.

Supply of housing under construction jumps 10.6%

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE supply of housing under construction shot up 10.6 percent to 72,500 units in the last quarter of 1994, as housing starts took off and completions fell, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

The number of units under construction at the end of last year reached the levels of the third quarter of 1992, when the government froze public construction.

Private sector units under construction reached a record 52,900, more than double the number of units at the end of 1989, when the immigration wave from the Soviet Union began.

Housing starts jumped 17% last year to 43,300 units from 37,000 in 1993.

Public housing soared 54.4% to 10,500 units from 6,800 in 1993. Private sector housing starts grew a more moderate 8.9% to 32,900 units.

The number of housing starts increased as the year progressed. In the first half of the year, housing starts grew at a pace of 9,300 units a quarter.

In the third quarter, the number of starts rose 10.8% to 10,300, leaping 40.8% in the last quarter to 14,500 starts.

By contrast, housing completions dove 21% to 33,900 units last year. Public sector completions dropped by more than half to 9,500 units last year compared with 21,400 in 1993.

The decrease reflects the steep drop in public housing starts that began in 1992.

In the private sector, completions jumped 13.4% last year to 24,500 units.

Talks on OECD membership to begin

JOSE ROSENFELD

ISRAEL will formally begin talks next week with the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), which could lead to joining the group, Foreign Ministry Economics Department director Oded Eran said yesterday.

The meeting was set after Foreign Minister Shimon Peres met with OECD Secretary General Jean-Claude Paye, and he agreed

to open discussions with Israel.

Although the question of joining the organization is not being discussed at the moment, Eran said "were Israel to be accepted, it would automatically raise the country's rating."

Other officials, however, expressed serious reservations about the country joining the

OECD, which represents developed countries.

One was particularly concerned that it will only impose obligations and interfere with the benefits Israel receives as a developing nation.

The official said those pushing for recognition believe "that if you sleep with dogs, you'll bark

instead, they'll get fleas."

If the issue of joining come up for a decision, the Industry and Trade Ministry and the Treasury are expected to oppose it.

At the meeting, Israel will show how it can contribute to the organization in the areas of energy, environmental protection, education, urban development, agriculture and economic statistics, Eran said.

'Insurance firms can't use automobile theft as reason to hike rates'

EVELYN GORDON

INSURANCE companies should not be allowed to raise car insurance rate to cover losses from theft, because their policies are responsible for encouraging much of the theft, MK Ariel Weinstein (Likud) said yesterday.

Weinstein was responding to press reports that the companies want to increase the price of car insurance by between 10% and 20%.

In their application to the supervisor of insurance, the companies said they needed the increase to compensate for losses of NIS 200 million last year, of which NIS100m. were due to theft.

However, Weinstein said the companies themselves create a demand for stolen cars, because

they require garages to perform all repairs with used parts - and stolen cars are the easiest source of used parts.

According to the police, 25%-30% of all car thefts are for parts, Weinstein said.

As proof of the insurance companies' demands, Weinstein circulated forms from three licensed car insurance assessors - each of which included some version of the statement "used parts only."

"The insurance companies are encouraging thefts," he said. "They're creating the market - because [people] steal cars to take them apart."

Weinstein said he has asked the supervisor of insurance not to approve the rate hike until he has thoroughly investigated this issue.

New ministry plan expected to stabilize produce prices

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE fruit and vegetable index is expected to fall six percent this month but will then stabilize, Agriculture Ministry deputy director general Dalia Harel said yesterday.

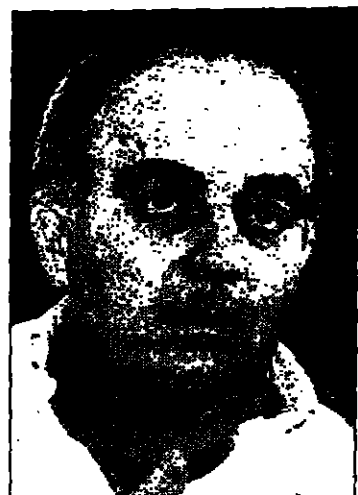
In January, the ministry started to intervene in the market by removing surpluses of agricultural produce and approving imports in times of a shortage.

The intervention plan will cost the government about NIS 20 million annually in the vegetable field and another NIS 3m. in the citrus sector.

Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tsuri said the sharp fluctuations the last few months in fruit and vegetable prices have had a dramatic impact on the index.

Tsuri said farmers and consumers have a common interest in "maintaining stable prices at a reasonable level."

He said that as part of the plan imports will be automatically approved when the price of a particular fruit or vegetable rises above



Tsuri: Farmers and consumers have a common interest in 'maintaining stable prices at a reasonable level.' (Uzi Keren)

a certain level.

If the price of agriculture produce drops below a certain percentage of farmers' production costs, the ministry will intervene by removing the surplus to insure a minimum price to farmers.

Tower Semiconductor posts 107% rise in annual net profits

Gilat Satellite Networks boosts earnings to \$6.1 million

COMPANY RESULTS

RACHEL NEIMAN

TOWER Semiconductor posted a 107 percent rise in annual net profits last year to \$7.76 million from \$3.74m. in 1993.

Yearly revenues went up 54% to \$57.7m. from \$37.56m., while price per share rose to \$1.03 from \$0.55.

Net profits for the fourth quarter rose 95% to \$2.96m. from \$1.5m. in the comparable quarter last year.

Revenues went up to \$17m. from \$11.9m., while price per

share rose to \$0.32 from \$0.23.

CEO Sanford Kane attributed the growth to the company's increased manufacturing capacity.

Tower announced a new three-year contract with National Semiconductor to supply it with 5,000 wafers per month from 3,500 per month.

Gilat Satellite Networks announced an increase in annual net profits to \$6.1m. from \$4.1m.

Price per share went up to \$0.73 from \$0.53, while revenues increased to \$27m. from \$16.9m.

Quarterly net profits went up 40% to \$2.25m. from \$1.6m. Revenues jumped to \$9.3m. from \$5.3m., while prices per share rose to \$0.27 from \$0.20.

Gilat has renegotiated its 1993 agreement with world lottery leader GTECH that will increase

Greenspan: Economic growth slowing

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan said yesterday the fast-paced economy may be shifting into lower gear because of higher interest rates, but added it was too soon to say inflation was no longer a threat.

"The data that have been published in the first weeks of 1995 have offered some indications that the expansion may finally be slowing from its torrid and unsustainable pace of late 1994," Greenspan told the Senate Banking Committee.

In his semi-annual report to Congress on the economy, he sounded an upbeat note, making it clear he saw no signs of the country slipping into recession.

"Overall, the performance of the economy [in 1995] still should be good," Greenspan said. "We expect growth to continue and inflation to be contained."

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

| Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (23.2.95) | | | |
|--|----------|----------|-----------|
| Currency (deposit term) | 3 MONTHS | 6 MONTHS | 12 MONTHS |
| U.S. dollar (\$250,000) | 5.375 | 5.500 | 5.250 |
| Pound sterling (£100,000) | 4.750 | 5.125 | 5.000 |
| French franc (FF 200,000) | 3.500 | 3.750 | 4.375 |
| Swiss franc (Sfr 200,000) | 2.625 | 2.875 | 4.500 |
| Yen (10 million yen) | 0.750 | 0.625 | 0.675 |

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

| Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (22.2.95) | | | |
|--|--------|--------|--------|
| Currency basket | Buy | Sell | Rep. |
| U.S. dollar | 2.980 | 3.010 | 2.980 |
| German mark | 2.090 | 2.075 | 2.090 |
| French franc | 4.728 | 4.705 | 4.728 |
| Japanese yen (100) | 1.578 | 1.565 | 1.578 |
| Dutch guilder | 1.800 | 1.780 | 1.800 |
| Swiss franc | 2.375 | 2.420 | 2.375 |
| Swedish krona | 2.400 | 2.410 | 2.400 |
| Norwegian krone | 0.450 | 0.445 | 0.450 |
| Danish krone | 0.510 | 0.515 | 0.510 |
| Portuguese escudo | 200.00 | 200.00 | 200.00 |
| Canadian dollar | 1.600 | 1.595 | 1.600 |
| Australian dollar | 2.210 | 2.215 | 2.210 |
| S. African rand | 0.830 | 0.840 | 0.830 |
| Belgian franc (10) | 0.578 | 0.585 | 0.578 |
| Austrian schilling (10) | 2.850 | 2.860 | 2.850 |
| Italian lira (100) | 1.850 | 1.860 | 1.850 |
| Japanese yen (100) | 1.578 | 1.585 | 1.578 |
| Spanish peseta (100) | 2.000 | 2.010 | 2.000 |

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

(מטרה) TARGET מטרה
Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents

Date: 21.2.95
Purchase Price: 132.79
Redemption Price: 130.67

למנוי פה למנוי פה

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PRIME פרימ
Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents

Date: 21.2.95
Purchase Price: 97.56
Redemption Price: 96.09

למנוי פה למנוי פה

Two-Sided index Maof index Karam index

What got the traders worried, if not panicky, is that the market insiders are running out of excuses to explain the share market's behavior.

Turnover was NIS 82 million. The central bank will apparently reduce its monetary tenders to banks to make up for the monetary expansion generated by such an open market policy.

What seems more worrisome than the crisis itself is the fact that no one seems to be trying to get a handle on the problem.

But there are those who are beginning to realize that "the crisis that isn't" reflects a deep crisis

Inflation is continuing unabated, notwithstanding the low prices of fruit and vegetables; the

Tuesday's amazing round of ministerial musical chairs is hardly a testimonial of political acumen or managerial savvy, and

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

Leading shares closed marginally easier, failing to hold modest gains as an early Wall Street rally ran out of steam. Hanson said it would spin off 34 non-core US businesses to cut its debt by \$1.4

Volumes were moderate, and the market unsettled by a weak dollar and lower Bund futures prices.

PARIS - French shares ended a slow day softer, paralyzed by a political scandal and adrift on international market movements.

ZURICH - Swiss shares closed mixed after a quiet and trendless session. Volume was light, with some sectors showing gains while other saw losses.

on Greenspan's comments

WALL STREET REPORT

Chairman Alan Greenspan's suggestion that the central bank might hold interest rates steady as the economy cools down.

The Dow Jones industrial aver- Stock Exchange.

| | MARK | STERLING | YEN | Sfr | FFr |
|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| MARK | — | 0.4282/85 | 65.97/00 | 0.8453/96 | 3.4972/77 |
| STERLING | 2.3344/52 | — | 153.50/02 | 1.1630/42 | 8.1636/77 |
| YEN | 1.2144/85 | 0.6486/85 | — | 1.2851/74 | 5.2971/38 |
| Sfr | 117.66/80 | 0.5040/43 | 77.88/71 | — | 4.1155/96 |
| FFr | 0.2686/60 | 0.1224/25 | 18.93/88 | 0.2427/70 | — |

| | | | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| MARK | — | 0.4282/85 | 65.97/00 | 0.8483/96 | 3.4972/77 |
| STERLING | 2.3342/52 | — | 153.90/02 | 1.3620/42 | 8.1636/77 |
| YEN | 1.5144/65 | 0.6486/85 | — | 1.2851/74 | 5.2971/36 |
| SFr | 117.66/80 | 0.5040/45 | 77.88/71 | — | 4.1155/66 |
| FFr | 0.2658/60 | 0.1224/25 | 16.83/88 | 0.2427/30 | — |

[illegible]

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

| Name | Price | Chg | Name | Price | Chg | Name | Price | Chg | Name | Price | Chg |
|-----------------|--------|--------|--------------|--------|--------|------------------|--------|--------|----------------|--------|--------|
| NEW YORK | | | | | | | | | | | |
| AAPL Inc. | 75.975 | +0.125 | Chrysler Slg | 47.25 | +0 | Georgia Pac | 77.875 | -0.875 | Marathon Corp | 47.875 | +0.125 |
| ABC Corp. | 47.875 | +0.125 | Coca Cola | 47.875 | +0.125 | Garter Products | 77.875 | -0.875 | MetLife | 47.875 | +0.125 |
| ABX Corp. | 47.875 | +0.125 | Coke | 47.875 | +0.125 | GenCorp | 77.875 | -0.875 | Minerals Corp | 47.875 | +0.125 |
| Adco | 47.875 | +0.125 | Cummins | 47.875 | +0.125 | Glaxo Inc. | 77.875 | -0.875 | Monroe Corp | 47.875 | +0.125 |
| Advanced Inc. | 30.125 | +0.125 | Danaher | 47.875 | +0.125 | Golden Fwy | 47.875 | -0.875 | Monsanto | 47.875 | +0.125 |
| Advanced Tech | 30.125 | +0.125 | Dynalene | 47.875 | +0.125 | Grain Processing | 47.875 | -0.875 | Morgan Stanley | 47.875 | +0.125 |
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Rodman's 30 rebounds, Robinson's final seconds dunk edges Houston

Cavaliers stop Knicks' rally; Brown's 41 leads Celtics

HOUSTON (AP) — Another Spurs-Rockets matchup, another close game. And another San Antonio win.

In five meetings between the Midwest Conference rivals this season, four of the games have been decided by three points or less. On Tuesday night, the Spurs got a 98-97 win — their fourth over the Rockets this season on David Robinson's jump with 2.2 seconds left.

Robinson had an off night, scoring 18 points on 8-for-22 shooting, but teammate Dennis Rodman had the biggest rebounding night in the NBA this season with 30.

"We really got into the game early, running and sharing the ball," Spurs coach Bob Hill said. "It was maybe the best half offensively we had all year."

Robinson beat the Rockets when Mikeejun Olajuwon went to double-team Sean Elliott on the perimeter, leaving the San Antonio center open to take Elliott's pass.

"I thought I saw (Clyde) Drexler slip, and I was running at Sean," Olajuwon said. "It was just an automatic reaction. Elliott made the big pass in finding David under the basket."

Houston trailed by as many as 23 midway through the second period but regrouped in the second half behind Drexler, making his home debut after a trade a week ago brought him from Portland for power forward Otis Thorpe.

Drexler finished with 29, but Rodman capitalized on Thorpe's absence on the front line.

Vinny Del Negro led San Antonio with 23 points.

Cavaliers 99, Knicks 91
Cleveland held off a furious host New York rally behind John Williams' 19 points.

Williams hit a 19-foot jumper with 1:03 remaining to give the Cavaliers a 93-87 lead after the Knicks had stormed back from a 27-point second-half deficit to pull within four.

Danny Ferry scored 20 points for

Cleveland, and Patrick Ewing led New York with 33 points.

Celtics 129, Suns 121
Dec Brown scored a career-high 41 points to lead visiting Boston.

Brown had 27 in the first half, when Boston opened a 25-point lead that wended the Suns, which lost for only the fifth time at home this season.

AC Green scored 24 points, Dan Majerle 23 and Kevin Johnson 21 each for the Suns, who are 2-3 in their last five home games.

Mavericks 102, Bulls 97

Jim Jackson scored 44 points and Dallas overcame a 21-point, third-quarter deficit.

Jackson scored 30 points in the second half, including a layup that put the Mavericks ahead for good, 99-97, with 41 seconds left.

Washington, which has lost five straight at home and 10 of 11 overall, got 30 points from Juwan Howard.

Bulls 105, Hawks 88

Toni Kukoc hit his first seven shots and scored 21 points to spark visiting Chicago.

The Bulls, who blew a 19-point lead in a loss at Charlotte the previous night, saw most of a 16-point, second-quarter lead evaporate against the Hawks, but held on at the end.

Mookie Blaylock led the Hawks with 22 points.

Nuggets 118, Clippers 80

Denver gave new head coach Bernie Bickerstaff a victory over Los Angeles in his debut and got its biggest win of the season.

Bickerstaff, also the Nuggets' general manager, took over Monday as the head coach. Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf had 17 points for Denver.

Eric Piatkowski's 14 points led Los Angeles, which shot 36 percent.

Blazers 99, Timberwolves 86

Clifford Robinson scored 29 points and Rod Strickland added 23 as Portland won at home.

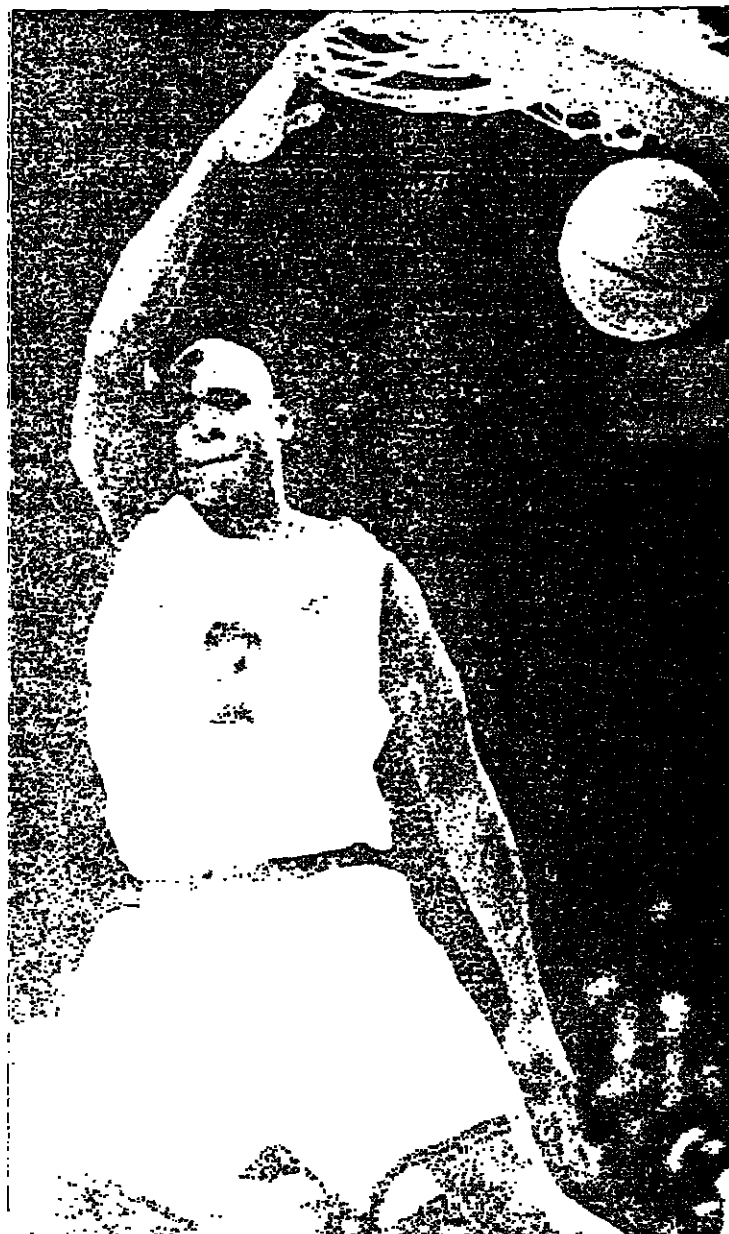
The Trail Blazers' Terry Porter, playing only his third game since missing the entire first half of the season, had 17 points, 12 in the final period.

Isiah Rider led the visiting Timberwolves with 21 points.

The Blazers led 70-65 entering the final period and used an 11-3 run starting the quarter to open a 81-68 lead.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS:

Cleveland 99, New York 91
Dallas 102, Washington 97
Chicago 105, Atlanta 88
San Antonio 98, Houston 97
Denver 118, LA Clippers 80
Boston 129, Phoenix 121
Portland 99, Minnesota 86



ALONE AT THE TOP — Washington's Chris Webber slams one against Dallas in first-quarter action.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

| | W | L | Pct. | GB |
|--------------|----|----|------|------|
| Orlando | 20 | 12 | .625 | — |
| New York | 20 | 18 | .520 | 6.5 |
| Boston | 21 | 20 | .512 | 18.5 |
| New Jersey | 21 | 22 | .489 | 19.5 |
| Charlotte | 19 | 22 | .459 | 20.5 |
| Philadelphia | 15 | 27 | .355 | 25 |
| Washington | 12 | 38 | .240 | 37 |

Central Division

| | W | L | Pct. | GB |
|-----------|----|----|------|------|
| Charlotte | 25 | 18 | .585 | — |
| Cleveland | 22 | 20 | .520 | 1 |
| Indiana | 20 | 20 | .500 | 2 |
| Chicago | 18 | 27 | .400 | 7.5 |
| Atlanta | 24 | 28 | .462 | 9 |
| Milwaukee | 20 | 32 | .385 | 13 |
| Denver | 19 | 32 | .373 | 13.5 |

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

| | W | L | Pct. | GB |
|-------------|----|----|------|------|
| Utah | 27 | 15 | .712 | — |
| San Antonio | 23 | 18 | .563 | 2.5 |
| Dallas | 22 | 19 | .537 | 3.5 |
| Denver | 22 | 29 | .431 | 14.5 |
| Phoenix | 20 | 29 | .408 | 15.5 |
| Minnesota | 13 | 38 | .250 | 24 |

Pacific Division

| | W | L | Pct. | GB |
|--------------|----|----|------|------|
| Phoenix | 27 | 12 | .788 | — |
| Seattle | 26 | 15 | .700 | 4 |
| LA Lakers | 22 | 17 | .563 | 6.5 |
| Sacramento | 26 | 21 | .551 | 10.5 |
| Portland | 27 | 23 | .540 | 12 |
| Golden State | 16 | 34 | .320 | 23 |
| LA Clippers | 9 | 45 | .173 | 31 |

Good goalies, rusty shooters cause scoring void



NEW YORK (AP) — After losing 4-1 to the Hartford Whalers earlier this season, the Montreal Canadiens

were taken to task by coach Jacques Demers for their lack of offense.

The Canadiens aren't the only ones having problems scoring. Ask most any other team. There's a drop in scoring this season and players point to a variety of reasons, including the most obvious: sharp goaltending and not-so-sharp shooters who haven't quite gotten into the swing of it because of the season's late start.

"I think based on our first few games, the goaltenders were more ready than the rest of us," says the New York Rangers' Brian Leetch.

As of this past weekend, 22 of the 26 teams had at least one goaltender with a goals-against average less than 3.

Buffalo's Dominik Hasek, the only goaltender last season under 2 goals per game, continued his brilliance with a 1.62 goals-against average. And he wasn't even the league leader — Detroit's Chris Osgood was, at 1.34.

In addition, every team but six had at least one goaltender with a save percentage of .900 or above. Osgood was the league leader with .945, while Hasek was second at .943.

The fine goaltending has emphasized a trend in the last few seasons that has seen scoring drop dramatically.

In 1992-93, an average of 7.2 goals were scored in each game. Last season, it was 6.5. In the first three weeks of this lockout-abridged season, goals were down to 5.9 — a pace that if continued to the end of the year would be the lowest in the NHL since 1956-57 when the average was 5.4.

"You look at every team and there are good goaltenders," says Montreal's Kirk Muller, whose

Canadiens boast one of the best in Patrick Roy.

But Muller doesn't think it's the only reason for the drop in goal production.

"It's a combination," Muller says. "Everyone's playing our type of hockey — patient hockey, low scoring. It's like playoff hockey ... and because of it, there's not many chances and the goalies are very good when they get the opportunities."

The prevailing opinion in the NHL is that teams have gone into a defensive mode because of the shortened 48-game schedule. Lesser talented teams without game-breaking scorers have more of an opportunity to win games that way.

"The trap is very effective in keeping the scoring down, and more teams are using it," said Quebec defenseman Uwe Krupp, whose Nordiques are one of the higher scoring teams in the league. "You're in a waiting position, and when you do it very well, it's hard to score."

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

| | W | L | T | Pts | Gf | Ga |
|----------------|---|---|---|-----|----|----|
| N.Y. Rangers | 8 | 7 | 2 | 18 | 48 | 43 |
| New Jersey | 6 | 8 | 3 | 15 | 33 | 34 |
| N.Y. Islanders | 6 | 8 | 3 | 15 | 39 | 48 |
| Philadelphia | 6 | 8 | 1 | 13 | 37 | 44 |
| Tampa Bay | 6 | 9 | 1 | 13 | 43 | 48 |
| Florida | 4 | 9 | 1 | 13 | 42 | 52 |
| Washington | 3 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 26 | 38 |

Northeast Division

| | W | L | T | Pts | Gf | Ga |
|------------|----|---|---|-----|----|----|
| Pittsburgh | 13 | 1 | 2 | 28 | 71 | 46 |
| Quebec | 13 | 3 | 0 | 26 | 80 | 34 |
| Boston | 17 | 5 | 1 | 17 | 42 | 36 |
| Montreal | 8 | 8 | 4 | 16 | 39 | 39 |
| Buffalo | 6 | 6 | 2 | 14 | 29 | 30 |
| Hartford | 6 | 8 | 3 | 11 | 47 | 59 |
| Ottawa | 2 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 27 | 42 |

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

| | W | L | T | Pts | Gf | Ga |
|-----------|----|---|---|-----|----|----|
| Chicago | 10 | 4 | 1 | 21 | 59 | 32 |
| Detroit | 10 | 4 | 1 | 21 | 56 | 32 |
| St. Louis | 9 | 5 | 1 | 19 | 59 | 44 |
| Toronto | 7 | 7 | 3 | 17 | 48 | 50 |
| Winipeg | 4 | 9 | 3 | 11 | 45 | 56 |
| Ottawa | 4 | 8 | 2 | 10 | 38 | 43 |

Pacific Division

| | W | L | T | Pts | Gf | Ga |
|-------------|---|---|---|-----|----|----|
| Calgary | 7 | 6 | 2 | 16 | 47 | 37 |
| San Jose | 7 | 6 | 2 | 16 | 34 | 34 |
| Edmonton | 6 | 8 | 2 | 14 | 41 | 54 |
| Vancouver | 4 | 5 | 5 | 13 | 45 | 48 |
| Anaheim | 4 | 8 | 3 | 11 | 32 | 55 |
| Los Angeles | 4 | 8 | 3 | 11 | 43 | 58 |

TUESDAY'S RESULTS:
Pittsburgh 5, Quebec 4
NY Rangers 5, Florida 3
Only games scheduled.

Arsenal sticks with Houston for season

League Cup semis rained out; clean bill of health given to Hillsborough

LONDON (Reuters) — Arsenal announced yesterday that Stewart Houston, the assistant who took over after George Graham was fired for financial irregularities, will manage the club for the rest of the season.

Houston, taking over only hours after Graham's dismissal, led the club to its first home victory since October 23 when it beat Nottingham Forest 1-0 Tuesday night. Arsenal chairman Peter Hill-Wood had indicated the job would be Houston's for the remainder of this season.

Graham, the most successful manager in the club's history, was dismissed Tuesday in connection with allegations that he received an under-the-table payment as part of the transfer deal that brought Danish midfielder John Jensen to the club in 1992.

Meanwhile, Sheffield Wednesday's Hillsborough ground, scene of the worst disaster in British soccer, was officially approved by UEFA yesterday as one of the venues for next year's European championship.

A delegation from Europe's governing body and the FA inspected the ground as part of their week-long tour of the eight championship venues.

The ground has changed dramatically since the tragedy on April 15, 1989 when 96 spectators were crushed to death at the Liverpool-Nottingham Forest FA Cup semifinal which was abandoned after only six minutes play.

On the pitch yesterday, both English League Cup semifinal second-leg ties were postponed after torrential rain left the pitches waterlogged.

The ties between Premier League Crystal Palace and Liverpool, and First Division clubs Bolton and Swindon, were rescheduled for March 8.

In Premier League action last night, it was Aston Villa 4, Leicester 4; Blackpool 2, Wimbledon 1; Leeds 1, Everton 0; Manchester City 2, Ipswich 0; Norwich 0, Manchester United 2; Portsmouth 0, Southampton 0; Newcastle 1, Tottenham 0; West Ham 0, Queens Park Rangers 0.

Mac TA faces Benfica tonight

JOEL GORDIN

PORTUGUESE champions Benfica Lisbon visit Maccabi Tel Aviv tonight in the final game of the European Club Championships for both teams. Regardless of the outcome, neither team will advance to the next round.

Maccabi won the first encounter in Lisbon, 90-81.

The game will be shown live on ITV starting at 8:45 pm.

UConn wins, Sheffer hurt

HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON

THE University of Connecticut rebounded from its loss Saturday to Villanova by thrashing visiting Boston College 88-75 Monday night.

Israeli sophomore guard Doron Sheffer sprained his right ankle and left the game after four minutes, having scored only two points.

"He just kind of got tangled up with a BC player running down the court," a UConn spokesman said yesterday. An X-ray on Sheffer's ankle showed no break and he will test the injury today at the team's next practice, the spokesman added. "Obviously, there's a concern, but we'll see what happens when he laces them up."

Forward Ray Allen led all scorers with 31 points and Donny Marshall added 20 to lead UConn.

The No. 4-ranked Huskies (21-2; 14-1 in the Big East) next play Saturday night, at home against Seton Hall.

Chinese athletes to work, play here

SPORTS Minister Micha Goldmann signed an agreement with his Chinese counterpart Wu Xiaozuo in Jerusalem yesterday for friendly basketball and soccer games between the two countries.

Chinese tennis players will also come here to learn their craft at the Israel Tennis Academy, and Israeli coaches are set to travel to China to conduct tennis clinics.

It's time to go, Shimon

OPINION

JOEL GORDIN

FOR the third straight year, Maccabi Tel Aviv, the flagship of Israeli basketball, has been ousted from the European arena by the end of February.

Two years ago, when Maccabi lost the National League title to Hapoel Galil Elyon, a young, overexerted Army Radio reporter asked Maccabi chairman Shimon Mizrahi if he intended to resign the post he has held for nearly two decades. It was not exactly an opportune moment for such a question and the intrepid reporter received a rather rude reply.

However, in the cold light of day, Mizrahi should re-think his future. Nobody is denying that he has done more for Israeli basketball than any other local official. Nobody is blaming him directly for Maccabi's problems (although it has often been said that he has failed to take into account the changes which have occurred in local and European basketball since Maccabi's glory days in the late 70s and early 80s). However, the principle of ministerial responsibility is all-important.

If Mizrahi does hand over the reins to another, possibly younger man, this move could blow a wind of change through the club which seems to have become somewhat stuck in a rut in recent years.

Maccabi Tel Aviv surely would never be the same without the dapper little figure, stiff and formal in his blue suit, perched on a chair next to the bench. That, however, is precisely the point. The same Maccabi is not good enough anymore.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Teamsters won't cross picket lines

International Brotherhood of Teamsters president Ron Carey said yesterday the union will not cross picket lines at regular-season Major League Baseball stadiums.

The Teamsters represent drivers for many of the nation's beer distributors. A Carey aide said Teamsters deliver products to 23 of the 26 major league stadiums in the US.

Tyson agrees to terms of probation

Former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson has agreed to perform 100 hours of community service in each of his four years of probation after his scheduled March 25 release from prison, prison officials said yesterday.

Besides the community service, Tyson will be required to undergo counseling and be subject to random testing for drugs or alcohol use. He also is forbidden to carry a firearm and must alert authorities if he is traveling out of the state.

Upon his scheduled release, Tyson will have served exactly three years of a six-year sentence at the Indiana Youth Center for raping 19-year-old beauty contestant Desiree Washington during the Miss Black America pageant in July 1991.

Unnamed prison officials said Tyson, 29, is fit and 50 pounds (22.5 kg) below the pudgy 260 lbs (118 kg) he weighed when he entered prison. He has been running and doing calisthenics but no boxing since the jail has no facilities or equipment.

Luxury Olympic tickets go on sale

Olympic organizers say they've already sold 100 sets of \$50,000 "patron" ticket packages, and this week will begin a direct mail campaign to sell thousands more to wealthy executives.

The luxury ticket deals are available in advance of the May 1 date when the general public can begin ordering tickets. Each package gives the buyer two tickets to the top event each day of the 1996 Games, as well as opening and closing ceremonies.

The organizers also will arrange private housing, parking and an exclusive VIP party for the "patrons."

CHICAGO (AP) — Michael Jordan has retired. Frank Thomas is on strike. These days, the greatest show in Chicago sports is an 18-year-old kid named Kevin Garnett.

Never heard of him? You will.

Garnett, a 6-foot-11 (2.11m) center for Chicago's Farragut High School, is part Moses Malone, part Alonzo Mourning, part Magic Johnson. And if his skills and body keep developing, he might just follow those players into NBA stardom.

Garnett shakes backboards with dunks, blocks shots into the 15th row, caps fast breaks with look-away passes, swishes jumpers and scatters bodies under the boards.

College recruiters have been watching Garnett for years. NBA scouts are beginning to take note, too.

"The fact is, there are players his size in the NBA who don't have nearly as many skills," said Farragut coach William Nelson, the beneficiary of Garnett's decision to relocate from South Carolina to Chicago for his senior season. "He's better than a lot of NBA players."

Growing crowds have been packing high school gyms in the Chicago area to get a glimpse of Garnett and his flashy teammate, swingman Ronnie Fields.

Saturday, more than 5,000 fans squeezed into DePaul's Alumni Hall and watched in awe as Garnett dominated Philadelphia's Roman Catholic, one of the top high school teams.

Garnett had 22 points, 16 rebounds, nine blocked shots and six assists. Those are close to Garnett's season averages for Farragut, which has a 22-1 win-loss record.

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GENERAL

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GENERAL

YOUNG IMPROV +



Police display some of the jewelry found at the home of one of the suspects in the murder of Donna Pinol and Avner Harel in January. It is believed the jewelry was stolen from the pair before they were killed. (Alon Ron/Israel Sun)

Two Filipinos held in double murder

RAINE MARCUS

POLICE have arrested two Filipinos in connection with the murder of Philippine national Donna Pinol and her Israeli boyfriend, Avner Harel, whose bodies were found in the back seat of Harel's car at the entrance to the Morasha cemetery on January 14.

The victims had been handcuffed and stabbed all over with a kitchen knife. Harel had also been strangled. Police said the pair had been murdered in the car somewhere between Petah Tikva and Herzliya six days earlier. The vehicle had apparently been abandoned in that area, but it remained unnoticed and was taken to the cemetery and abandoned there, for reasons still unknown. The bodies were found by a passing patrol van.

On Monday, Joe Matias, 37, and Marilyn Berilee, 34, who work as caregivers for elderly people, were

arrested by police and remanded for 15 days by the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court.

A publication ban on the arrests was lifted yesterday after police found the murder weapon. The two reenacted the murder for police yesterday but had difficulty in recalling the various locations where events occurred.

A third man allegedly involved in the murder, also a Filipino, apparently fled to the Philippines, which does not have an extradition treaty with Israel.

Chief Supt. Jackie Bray, said that additional suspects not yet apprehended may have been involved in what he described as "the most brutal killing I have ever seen."

The motive for the murder was robbery, said Bray. Police discov-

ered around 1,000 items of gold jewelry stolen from the couple at Matias's home, hidden in toys, clothing, a tie, shampoo bottles and a mattress.

Police said Harel and Pinol arrived at Matias's home to sell jewelry. There they were attacked at knife-point and abducted. They were tortured and then killed during their journey in Harel's car. Police found empty jewelry boxes at the scene.

Pinol, in Israel for around 10 years, was a jewelry agent, selling gold trinkets to fellow members of the Filipino community. Most of the stolen jewelry, valued at around \$200,000, belonged to her, said Bray.

Police are checking whether the remainder was given to Berilee as security against loans.

Channel 2 reporter questioned for allegedly paying prostitute to commit crimes

RAINE MARCUS

REPORTER Shosh Gabai, who worked on a Channel 2 documentary about 21-year-old male prostitute Yair Degani, was questioned by Hayatun police yesterday, in connection with an alleged payment made to Degani to commit crimes on camera.

The segment was screened on the *Uda* ("Fact") program on February 9. The program's director, Ruti Volcan, was arrested Tuesday, but was later released on bail. But Ilana Dayan, host of *Uda*, denied all the allegations yesterday.

The program showed Degani stealing a bus and using drugs,

The following day he was involved in a road accident while driving a stolen car without a license, and gave police false details.

Degani told police he was paid NIS 200 by Telad, which produces *Uda*, and said he had been told that he had police permission to steal a bus. In response, Dayan told Army Radio that her team had merely gotten permission from Egged to reenact the theft of a bus, an offense which Degani said he committed at age 11.

"He only drove a few meters

down a deserted street," she said. But Tel Aviv police chief Cmdr. Gabi Last was enraged over the whole affair.

"A doctor of law [Dayan] says that we had no right to arrest him. Degani is a criminal and drove without a license. He used drugs in front of the camera. And she expects us to turn a blind eye? Should we stop arresting criminals?" he said at the city's annual police conference yesterday.

Regarding the NIS 200 payment, Dayan said this was a humanitarian gesture.

Police said they may also summon Dayan for questioning.

Dinitz admits clothing allowance was never stipulated in writing

FORMER Jewish Agency chairman Simcha Dinitz said yesterday that there was nothing in writing about the \$2,500 clothing allowance he received from the Jewish Agency.

Testifying during his trial on fraud charges in Jerusalem District Court, Dinitz said he needed the allowance - most of which was used to buy clothes at Sym's men's store in New York - because of the importance of his properly representing the Agency.

But he admitted the allowance had never been stipulated in writing.

"Since there's nothing written about this grant anywhere, do you agree you shouldn't have received it?" prosecutor Shimon Dolan asked.

"There are many things that are not written down anywhere, but exist in reality," Dinitz said. "I doubt the agency finance director would have given it to me if he didn't think it was reasonable to do so."

Dolan charged that Dinitz did not make much of an effort to check whether any differentiation was made between his own personal expenses and money he spent on behalf of the Jewish Agency, the prosecution charged yesterday.

"Didn't you once think of looking at your pay slip since August 1991?" asked Dolan.

"I didn't examine them any differently than I did before," Dinitz replied.

"And you didn't think of asking the salaries department about

it?" Dolan asked.

"If I had any concern that something was amiss, that disappeared when I did the figuring," said Dinitz, adding that no one from the department ever updated him about this.

Dinitz confirmed the differentiation made by the emissary department accountant Nadav Shukrun between his private and agency expenses.

"All the items Shukrun presented to you as questionable were 100 percent private," he said. "No one ever told me that this system was wrong or unacceptable."

"If I had understood from what Shukrun wrote that I had to stop using the credit card, that would have meant I was convinced I had done something wrong." (Iltm)

Histadrut to High Court: Organization fees are legal

Response to Leumit Workers' Federation

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

ORGANIZATION fees for trade union services are legal, and have been part of collective work agreements in Israel for many decades, the Histadrut said yesterday, in response to the Leumit Workers' Federation's petition to the High Court of Justice against the fees.

The Histadrut's response to the High Court yesterday proves beyond any doubt that it is the largest representative workers' organization in Israel. Histadrut trade union section chairman MK Amir Peretz said, adding that Leumit only petitioned the court against organization fees out of greed, hoping to get the fees for itself.

Leumit had asked the court for an injunction forbidding the Histadrut from extending the organization fee agreements to the public sector, and demanded cancellation of the Histadrut's agreement with the Treasury to deduct organization fees from workers' wages.

Histadrut attorneys Nahum Feinberg, Ofer Ravid and Yaron Kedar stated that it has no intention of extending the organization fee collection, because from the start this agreement applied to the entire public sector.

As for the second clause, the Histadrut's attorneys said it consists of a dispute between two labor organizations and should be heard in labor court, which has direct jurisdiction over such cases.

Vindicating the organization-fee

agreement signed with the state on January 1, the Histadrut said that it is not essentially different from previous work agreements, which have been signed between the Histadrut and the state for decades.

The statement points out that the Histadrut is the largest workers' representative organization, and has contributed much to achieving beneficial work conditions in areas to which labor laws do not apply.

These include pension, cost-of-living increments, the amount of money workers are paid, vacation supplements, and other benefits achieved in collective work agreements between the Histadrut and the employers.

In addition, the Histadrut serves its members by providing a nationwide network of labor councils and trade unions; strike funds; economic and legal counseling; negotiations on collective work agreements; training workers committees, and other services.

The Histadrut, the statement says, is a voluntary organization which each worker may join or leave at will.

In an attack on Leumit, the attorneys noted that while previous court rulings have recognized the Histadrut as the largest workers' representative, Leumit's activity on behalf of workers has been negligible, if it existed at all, over the years.

The hearing is scheduled for February 26.

Knesset guards allegedly faking class attendance

BILL HUTMAN

THE Knesset Officer and Knesset Guard commander are under investigation for allegedly lying on the attendance forms of an enrichment class they were required to take so they could receive pay raises, a police spokesman said yesterday.

The case is being handled by the police investigations chief, Cmdr. Yossi Levy. The investigation was prompted by a complaint received by a police officer who attended the 400-hour class, conducted over the past several months, and noticed the two did not show up for many sessions.

However, they filled out attendance forms indicating they were at all of the sessions, and received the pay raise to which they would otherwise not have been entitled.

Levy will recommend in the coming days whether criminal charges should be filed against the Knesset Officer, Eitan Ben-Eliahu and guard commander Mordechai Fried, who together are responsible for security at the Knesset.

Levy's recommendation will be turned over to the State Attorney's Office, which has the final say on whether charges are filed.

The Knesset spokesman said yesterday that no action has been taken against the two.

Liat Collins contributed to this report.

Knesset sets conditions for publication of 'Mein Kampf'

LIAT COLLINS

MEIN Kampf will be published in Hebrew, but with the subtitle, "the book that led to the Holocaust," the Knesset subcommittee on antisemitism and xenophobia, which concluded its discussions on the subject this week, has decided.

Yesterday, Health Minister Efraim Sneh, answering three motions on the subject, confirmed the government's acceptance of the committee's recommendations.

The committee said the book should be available for academic research, but not for mass circulation. Apart from the subtitle, the book cover, and every page will carry a warning, "like a poisonous substance has a warning label," Sneh said.

Yigal Bibi (NRP) objected to its translation into Hebrew altogether. He asked for an investigation whether the Hebrew University, which printed it, had used public funds.

Burg elected acting Agency chairman

BATSHEVA TSUR

THE partnership between the Diaspora and Israel can withstand existential threats within the framework of the Jewish Agency, MK Avraham Burg declared yesterday, minutes after being elected the agency's acting chairman.

"We have to tell all those who threaten us that we are the real *Beit Yisrael*," Burg told members of the board of governors in Jerusalem, alluding to Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin, who has proposed establishing a movement by that name to replace the agency and the World Zionist Organization.

Sitting proudly in the front row were Burg's wife and four children, his in-laws, his mother, and his father, longtime NRP leader Dr. Yosef Burg.

After a warm introduction by board chairman Mendel Kaplan and his official nomination by outgoing acting chairman Yehiel Leket, Burg was elected to the chairmanship by acclamation.

It was a philosophical maiden address, with Burg raising questions of identity as a Jew and a Zionist.

"Israel is the experimental ground of 4,000 years of Jewish civilization," he said. "Historic Judaism is tested here daily."

He said he personally equated Zionism with "the ability to stop being weak," but warned that too much physical power can corrupt. He spoke of the moral effect of Judaism, saying that the two forces served as "checks and balances." In a similar vein, the Diaspora and Israel must give and take in order "to function together."

Looking to the future, Burg said that, when all the Jews from countries of distress had been gathered in, the question would be not "Who is a Jew?" but "Whose children are Jewish?"

Following his address, the plenum turned to a long debate on the proposal to visit Kiev in June - not for the entire session of the Jewish Agency Assembly but for two days, before convening the assembly in Jerusalem.

"We cannot be dictated to by the press," which has criticized the cost of such a trip, said Miriam Shneirov of the US, who is on the committee planning the annual assembly. Michal Moda'i said the Kiev visit would "bring in tenfold" in terms of contributions and would also encourage Ukraine's Jews to make aliyah.

The vast majority of the board's members showed their agreement by voting in favor of the visit, which is expected to cost \$500,000.

MDA staffers resume work

JUDY SIEGEL

MAGEN David Adom workers halted their sanctions last night after management froze plans to fire six ambulance medics due to budget constraints.

The breakthrough came when Health Ministry Director-General Dr. Meir Oren said he would try to get the Treasury to cover the wages of the six medics.

For nearly a week, MDA's 200 ambulance drivers have refused to go out on call unless accompanied by a medic. MDA management said it is short 60 medics. It has only 16, and the jobs of at least six - working out of the Ramle-Lod, Kiryat Malachi, Ofakim, Sderot, Upper Nazareth and Beit She'an stations - were threatened because of budget shortfalls for 1995. Last year, the ministry allocated NIS 800,000 for medics' salaries.

The Health Ministry announced recently that it intends to change the law to enable IDF medics to accompany ambulance drivers. However, it could take weeks for army medics to be retrained for civilian service.

Union chief Eli Ben-Khassous said last night that ambulance drivers had returned to normal operations.

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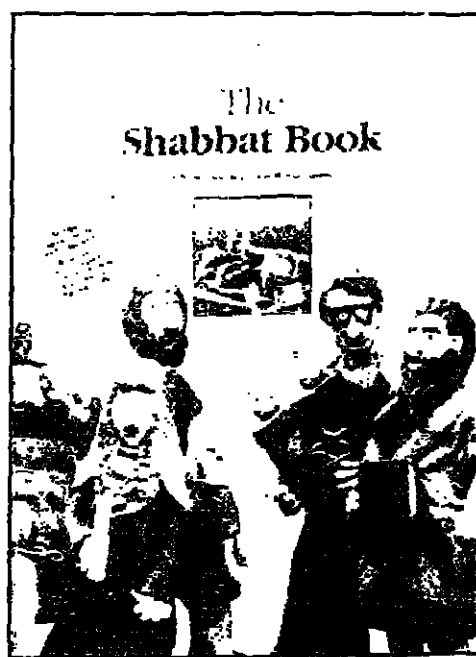


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